

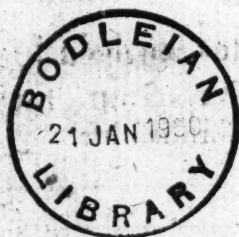
MASTER
BEZAE'S
HOVSHOLD
PRAYERS:

For the Consolation
and Perfection of a
Christian life.



LONDON.
Printed for John Barnes.

1621.



TO
THE RIGHT
HONORABLE,
FRANCIS Countesse
of Exeter, &c.



I pleased you
(true Honors
approoued Ho-
nourable La-
dy) some few
yeares since, to
countenance with your Honora-
ble patronage a little Booke of
Prayers, translated into Eng-
lish by me, out of the French
Originall, written by that re-
uerend Father of the Church,
Theodore Beza: since which
time I haue spent the residue
of my life hitherto in trauell;
A 3 hauing

The Epistle.

having seene most of the countries in Christendome, received many wounds : and now after many variations, having made my returne, I finde my Booke to be buried in oblivion. I humbly therefore once more desire your Honor, to helpe to revive it by your noble countenance : for the true greatnesse of an honourable Personage, gives strength and encouragement to the weaknesse of the homelyest Authors, when our labours (such as they are) are sheltered under the defensive Bulwarkes of protection.

The subject of this Booke being divine, I know agrees with the conditions of the best times and ages, wherein there

The Epistle.

is nothing written but doth truly sympathize with the true verity of our Christian faith. For as euery naturall man (in regard of his bodie, his soules instrument) is sayd to bee a little world: So euery spiritual man (in regard of his soules regiment) is sayd to bee a little Church, and herein it principally appeares; when neither in writings, nor in words, translations, or inuentions, bee writes or speakes any thing that may either prejudice the truth, or priuiledge an error. Thus once more (Noble Lady) I am bold to shrowd it vnder you honorable protection, desiring God that you may liue as happy as you are worthy.

The Epistle.

*and that to your high stile,
state and place, your fortune,
and Gods high fauour may
euer sute, I rest*

At your Honors
command,

JOHN BARNES.

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THE TABLE.

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28 A Prayer for him that feeleth
himselfe to be neare death.

The end of the Table.

HOLY PRAY-
ers of a faithfull
Soule:

FOR THE CON-
solation and perfe-
ction of a Christi-
an life.

The first Prayer,

Vpon the Lords Prayer

When you pray, use no vain repetitions, as the Heathen: for they thinke to be heard for their much babling. Be ye not like them therefore: for your Father knoweth whereof yee haue need before yee aske of him. After this manner therefore pray ye.

MAT. 6.

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MAT. 6.

*Our Father which art in
Heaven.*

O Lord G O D almighty, the knowledge of whom is life, whom to serue, is to raigne, and vn-to whom to pray, is the ioy and peace of the soule, we cannot know thee, but in thine owne Image Iesus Christ, and that by the operation of thy spirit: neither serue thee, except wee follow thy word: neither call vpon thee, but in the name of the same Christ, & according to that forme which

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which himselfe hath prescribed vs. Thus euery faithful creature saith vnto thee: *Our Father, giue vnto vs, forgive vs.* For thus hath thy Sonne the head of that vnion, which is amongst all Christians, commanded, that our prayers should be common for all thy people, as beeing all one body, which thou gouernest by one onely spirit: and forasmuch as our beeing dependeth vpon thee onely, and being in our birth corrupted by sinne, thou makest vs to be renewed vnto righteousness through the same eternall word, whereby thou hast created vs, we
doe

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do rightly call thee, euen
by a double right, *Our Fa-
ther*, A happy and lo-
uing beginning of prayer,
wherein the new man re-
conciled vnto thee, in Je-
sus Christ, thus speaketh
to thee his Father : I doe
beleene that I am of the
number of thy children,
through thy mercy, which
it hath pleased thee to
vouchsafe mee, and there-
fore (O my God) I can-
not see doubt hereof, but
that thou dost louingly
heare mee, and art inclined
to helpe me and to releue
me in all my necessityes,
considering thou art in hea-
uen, euen according as be-
ing

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ing in all place, thou art as
it were in no place: for thou
art wholly an infinite spirit,
& inaccessible light, whose
name is (*I am*) namely of
a sole, true essence, eter-
nal, immutable, and incom-
prehensible, and from
whom all nature, whether
celestiall or terrestriall, doth
through grace, borrow
his essence and subsistence.
Thus art thou aboue, in
such wise, that beeing out
of euery place, thou art a-
boue all this great vniuer-
sall world in seate of thine
owne glory, from whence
thou doest embrace both
heauen and earth, and with
thy prouidence, sustaine
them

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them. As also, in some sort thou art aboue all things, because they do all depend and beare themselues vpon thee, who likewise dost by thy subtilty pierce into them, more neerely vnto euery creature then the same is to it selfe. Howbeit thou art in heauen, so farre forth, as that the exquisite workes of thy hands, do the better appeare therein. And thou doest in an especiall manner inhabit the high heauen: for there doth thy Maiesty shine with open countenance: besides, thou art with thy gracious presence in the soules of the righteous, which doe harbour

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bour thee as a Father in
their hearts.

Hallowed be thy name.

FOR O Lord, sith thou art
my father, reason requi-
reth, that aboue all things,
I should desire thine honor,
but euerlastingly, for euer
and euer, thy name is holy,
and the glory thereof infinit.
My prayer then bringeth
nothing to thy greatnelle &
excellencies: but yet I may
here desire, that thy name,
both of it selfe, & by it selfe,
most holy, may bee sanctifi-
ed, and exalted in me, & in
all men, and in all places:
whereby my selfe doe also
ob-

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obtaine that holines, which
is conuenient for the true
child of such a Father, vnto
whom all vncleannesse is
displeasing.

Thy Kingdome come.

BY who can impeach
thy Kingdome, O eter-
nall God, who hast created
all things for thy seruice?
Thou reignest ouer all; for
the heauen is thy throne, &
the earth thy foot stoole:
yet I beseech thee, be vnto
mee as a Father in mercy,
not as a Iudge in thy iu-
stice, thou reignest in thy
word, which thou hast re-
uealed, and inspired, and I
be-

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beseech thee, euen for thy
glory sake, that this thy
booke of life, may bee ope-
ned to all people, that there-
by all nations may worship
thee: thou reignest in thy
Church, and I pray that the
number of thy elect may be
shortly fulfilled. Thy King-
dome is thy grace, and I
beseech thee to make me as
capable thereof, as thou art
liberall.

*Thy will be done in earth, as
it is in heauen.*

MY will O Lord, is al-
together peruerse &
depraued except it bee for-
med by thine, wherein re-
steth

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steth and consisteth all my
good : create in me this ho-
ly wil, and giue me grace to
fulfill it in all my thoughts
and workes: (for what can
I haue, but what thou gi-
uest mee?) to the end that
in obedience of faith, I may
do that which shall bee ac-
ceptable in thy sight, euen
as the Angells in heauen
do obey thy voice.

*Giue vs this day our daily
bread.*

FOr Christ our Lord and
Doctor, hath so contri-
ued the petitions which we
make vnto thee, that in see-
king first the glory of thy
name

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name, he will, that withall,
we should haue experience
of the riches of thy goodnes
in all things necessary for
this life. Thus wilt thou
(ò mercifull father) recom-
pence with infinit benefits,
euen our simple cogitations
of the brightnes of thy glo-
ry, and crowne thy gifts
in vs with grace for grace.
Wee doe therefore dayly
craue our bread, and thou
doest also giue it vs, that is
to say, euen all that is ne-
cessary for our maintai-
nance heere beneath : yet
dost thou present vs with
one bread farre more exoe-
lent and profitable, then
the bread of Angels, and of
the

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the blessed spirits : giue me
therefore, O Lord Iesus
Christ, God and man, that
of him I may liue for euer,
that my vnderstanding may
bee enlightened with his
truth, and my heart kindled
with the fire of his loue, that
I perish not.

*And forgive vs our tres-
passes, as we forgive them that
trespasse against vs.*

Our sinnes as debts
doe binde vs to death
(which is their reward and
to hell which is their grave;
they are as a strong barre,
to keepe vs from coming
to thecōmost holy God, yea
which is more, they are as

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a cloud that shadowes thine eyes, from looking fauourably vpon vs. And therefore the most conuenient preparation to prayer, is with an humble, and truly penitent heart, to feele & confesse our sinnes: for so thou wilt vouchsafe to grāt vs remission of the same, in the name of thy Sonne our Sauour, in imputing vnto vs his righteousnesse. Yet herein (O Lord) is thy free mercy very great, that thou also giuest vs power to pardon those that doe offend vs, and by so doing, to obtaine thy grace: for what offence can any man commit against vs, (poore wormes

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wormes of the earth (con-
sidering that we do so often,
and so grievously offend (O
King of glory) and in such
sort, that if euery creature
should arme it selfe to hurt
vs, yet would not the least
iniurie that wee commit
against thee bee sufficiently
reuenged. Yet doest thou
vouchsafe thus to testifie
thy infinite goodnes, accep-
ting as a sweet sacrifice, the
oblation of our hearts re-
conciled, and fully vnited
with our neighbours, like
as contrariwise no part of a
hatefull and peruerse heart
can delight thee.

And

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*And lead vs not into temptation,
but deliuer vs
from euill.*

FOr, as through thy mercie thou sufferest not Sathan (the author of all temptations) to seduce thy children, neither sinne to overcome them, so when thou wilt punish man in thy iustice, they remaine deprived of thy protection, and vnder the power of the Diuell to be subiect to his tyrannie, and to liue in a reprobate sense, hereof do we therefore reape this singular consolation, that this great aduersarie of our sal-
B uation

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uation can doe nothing against vs, vnlesse thou giue him leane : and whereas sometimes thou causest vs to be tempted : thou dost it as a father, to chastice vs for our transgressions, or to make vs more triumphant and victorious in the tryall which it pleaseth thee to make of our faith and hope, for thy glory and our owne good, or for the edification of our neighbours.

*For thine is the kingdome,
the power, and the glory,
for ener and ener.*

LIke as (O my God and Father) I beganne my prayer,

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prayer, by the hallowing of
thy name, so is it meete and
iust that I should end it by
the exaltation of the same:
as thy children, who boun-
ding their vowes, with the
onely care of thy honour,
may assure themselves to
obtaine the fulfilling of the
same, in the sole perfection
of thy glory, So be it.

The second Prayer,

Vpon the Symbole or Ar-
ticles of Beliefe.

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*I belecue in God the Father
Almightie, &c.*

I. COR. 15.

*Before all things I haue
deliuered unto you that which
I haue receiued, namely that
Christ died for our sinnes, ac-
cording to the Scriptures, and
that he was buried, and that
he rose againe the third day.*

O Lord God gouer-
nour of the whole
world, immortall,
inuisible, and only
wise, for whose glorie all
things are ; it hath pleased
thee, according to the de-
cree

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crea of thy vnsearchable
counsell, that man, formed
after thy image, and falling
through mistrust and curi-
ositie, should by faith be re-
stored to the excellencie of
his nature, and as he sought
knowledge about thy com-
mandement, and so strayed
from thee, & wandred out
of thy kingdome, so hee
should be re-united, and re-
duced into the path of sal-
uation, by beleeuing thy
only word in the promised
Messias, bending the pow-
er of his soule to the know-
ledge of thee, in embracing
the preaching of the crosse,
which the world would ac-
count follie. But because

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we all are borne blinde, and
corrupt in our vnderstan-
ding and wil, it therfore fol-
loweth, that all the imagi-
nations and thoughts of
our hearts are at all times
nothing but euil, our know-
ledge but vanity, our lear-
ning but ignorance, our
iudgement but errour, our
vertue but pride, our wise-
dome but folly, the viuaci-
tie of our spirit, but the in-
strument of ruine, our de-
light but filthines, our faith
but incredulity : our hope
but fancie, our charity but
coldnes, to be brief, our pie-
tie but hypocrisie or su-
perstition, and our righte-
ousnesse but couetousnesse
or

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or ambition. So (O Lord) we of our selues are not capable, so much as of any good thought, vntill thou that knowest how to draw light out of darkenesse dost returne to recreate vs, and by thy spirit to shine in the firmament of our soules, to the end to frame vs to euery faithfull disposition and obedience, and so to make vs beleue in the Gospell of thy grace, and in the mysteries of our saluation. I doe therefore beseech thee (my God) according to the efficacy of thy vertue, to chāge in mee all that I haue of my selfe, euen my rocky and stony heart, and to make it

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pliable, & flexible, vnto the
voice of my redeemer, who
is come according to thy
promise, to the end that
with a full and liuely faith, I
may cleaue to his eternall
truth, for to comprehend,
according to the measure of
the gift of thy grace, the
summe and perfection of all
spirituall wisdom, which
is taught vs in the articles
of the true faith and sound
principles of religiō. Surely
my soule is ouermuch incli-
ned to incredulitie and mis-
trust, neither is it any way
able to pierce into these
high & profound secrets of
pietic, where we haue a full
declaratiō of all the figures
and

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and prophetes of the Law,
with a most pure and per-
fit doctrine of foure points,
which are the end of all re-
ligion, & in regard whereof
it is called Catholike. For
we finde thee there (thou
only and true God) the Fa-
ther, author and gouernour
of all things by thy almigh-
tie power, goodnes, & pro-
vidence. Next is our Lord
Iesus Christ (thy word and
eternall wisdom) therein
taught vnto vs, together
with the holy history of our
redemption. Thirdly, we
there finde the holy Ghost,
(the infinite verue of thee
the Father, & of the Sonne)
three persons, of one substance,
B 5 simple

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simple essence, and in equality of glory, And finally, therein is shewed vnto vs, the Church with a description of these cœlestiall graces, which thou pourest vpon her, whereof the forgiveness of sins is the sum, & life euerlasting the onely scope. Giue therefore vnto me (O merciful Father) of this thy spirit, of reuelation, of grace, & of mercy, to the end that the brightnes and operation thereof may make my soule capable of these great mysteries of thy Kingdome, so far forth as may be expedient for me to know, for the seruice of thy glory, and my own saluatiō, that I
may

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may obtaine the onely true
& sound knowledge whose
subiect and end is the onely
true, solide, and soueraigne
good both of me & Angels;
namely to know thee, to
glorifie thee, & him whom
thou hast sent, the Savi-
our of the world. So that
with my heart I do beleue
before thee, and before all
men, I doe with my words
and workes, confesse this
acceptable message of the
Messias come, borne in the
Citie of Dauid, which is
Christ the Lord God, ma-
nifested in the flesh, iusti-
fied in the spirit, scene of
the Angels, preached to the
Gentiles, beleueed by the
elect,

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elect, & exalted into glorie,
for our righteousness, holi-
nesse, and glorification and
further also (O Almighty
Lord) print in my heart the
feeling and knowledge of
this thy vspeakable good-
nesse and loue, extended
vnto vs miserable sinners,
in that thou hast giuen vnto
vs in sacrifice, thy onely
Sonne, saving vs by the
only merits of his death, to
the end that as the efficacie
of thy loue hath redounded
vnto me, wretched crea-
ture, so I may also suffici-
ently meditate vpon thy
great mercy, incessantly
yeeld thanks vnto thee, &
feele thy eternall consol-
tion,

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tion, vntill that I departing
in peace towards thee my
Father which art in heauen,
may obtain full knowledge
of those things that thou
hast given me to beleewe,
and in the perfect contem-
plation of the same, the so-
ueraigne good of Angels
and Saints. So be it.

The third Prayer,

Vpon the Decalogue, or
ten Commande-
ments.

God spake all these words,
saying, Heare O Israel: I am
the Lord thy God, that hath
brought thee out of the land of
Egypt, out of the house of bon-
dage:

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dage: Thou shalt haue none
other Gods before mee, &c.
Exod. 20.

OLORD God almighty, the author of all righteousness and perfection of life: Yea, euen thou that art essentially Iustice, perfection and life. I do truly know, that man created righteous and perfect, & by cleauing to thee, blessed, (but free and mutable) hath through sin turned frō thee plunging himself headlong into the sincke of vnrighteousnesse, imperfection and death The which hath depriued him of all power to obey

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obey the Law, and consequently bereaued him of the reward of eternall blessednesse. And albeit of especiall grace thou dost call vs, by the Gospell to the free righteousnesse of Christ, to the end, that beleeuing in him, wee might confesse him, for the obtayning of saluation : Yet are we neuerthelesse so much inclined to distrust, corruption, & disorder, that hardly we are entred into the way of his vocation, but we retire immediately, straying out of the course that might purchase vnto vs the prize: and so through our works deny our faith & our profession.

Now

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Now as the first and principall maner of thy honour (O onely true God) consisteth in beleeuing, and reposing our whole confidence in thee alone: so the second & inseparable from true faith, resteth in obedience to thy holy and good will. For we must be doers of that which thy holy word teacheth vs, and not hearers only, deceiuing our selues. Thou hast chosen & adopted vs to be thy children: but it is vpon this condition, that we should be reformed to the image of Iesus Christ, the first borne, & inheritor of all things. Thou hast chosen vs to be
his

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his Temple: now his habitation cannot be but holy, for thy spirit dwelleth therein. Thou hast redeemed vs with the price of his bloud, and that to the end thou maist be glorified both in our bodies & soules. Thou hast freed vs from sin, euen to the end we might be seruants to righteousness: thou hast giuen vs the Sauiour of the world, to be our iustification; but to the end also that we possesse him in sanctification. Thou wouldest that he should die for all men, euen to make him liue in thy elect, and they in him. And this is the reason wherefore the institution of
OUR

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our faith, together with the spirituall consolations that support the same, is accompanied with the tenne precepts of thy law, the certain and assured means to honor & serue thee, in living religiously to thy glory, and vprightly to the profit of our neighbors. For albeit in the Gospell we be free from the rigor & punishment of the Law, yet neuerthelesse, the rule of piety and holy life contained in the Decalogue abideth with vs, as a perpetuall paterne, whereby to frame our temporall course of life. And accordingly we do also consider of it in two parts, according as it pleased

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sed thee, O Lord, to write it
with thy finger, and to de-
liuer it vnto *Moses*, in two
tables of stone, for thy peo-
ple, whereof the first con-
tayneth foure Commande-
ments, of our duty towards
thee: and the second, sixe, of
that which wee owe to our
neighbors: Also the summe
& fulfilling of all these holy
precepts, importeth that we
loue thee (ô only true God)
with our whole heart, soule
and thought, and then all
other men (especially the
household of faith) as our
selues: But ô Lord, such is
the weaknesse of all flesh,
that there is no man able
to attayn to the perfection
of

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of thy Law : and yet thou
willest, that herein thy chil-
dren should comfort them-
selues; that there is left vnto
them some measure to ap-
proach thereunto, and so to
be acceptable vnto thee;
namely when with their
whole strength, preuented
by thy grace, they studie to
attaine the end of thy word,
walking & going forward
by the steps therof, and still
with sighing for their infir-
mities. For all the faithfull
may so beleue that with
thee their Father there is
mercy for them, in thy well-
beloued sonne Iesus Christ,
I beseech thee therefore, O
my God, to cast vpon mee
the

Household Prayers.

the eye of thy clemencie & goodnesse, thereby through the effects of thy spirit, to restore in my soule the breaches of sinne, to illuminate my vnderstanding, and to possesse my heart with the loue of thy truth, to the end that in all knowledge and obedience of faith, I may constantly walke in the paths of thy law; so that I may worship, feare, & loue thee, as the Lord, to whom I wholly owe my selfe: for thou hast created me, and which is more, redeemed me from eternall death, whence I doe also learne to loue all men in thee, and for thy sake, because they beare thy

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thy image, so that perseue-
ring thus in the duty of my
vocation, I may so much
the rather feele thy peace in
my conscience, and thy bles-
sing vpon all the workes of
my hands, that filled with
dayes, I leaue my life, to en-
ioy rest eternally, Amen.

The fourth Prayer,

To one onely God in Tri-
nity of persons.

*God in the beginning crea-
ted Heauen & earth: the word
was with God, and this word
was God: and the spirit of God
moued vpon the waters. Gen.
1. Iohn 1.*

O eter-

Household Prayers.

O Eternall, true and only God in three persons coequal & almighty, of one sole and simple essence, inuisible, and infinite. The Father, the Word, & the holy Ghost, who being the so-ueraigne good, sufficient to thy selfe, needing no new matter, wouldest not for euer inioy thy glory alone, but according to thy vnmeasurable and altogether incomprehensible goodnesse, reueale thy selfe at thy good pleasure, in foure works altogether diuine and singular. (The creation of the World, and of all nature: the redemptiō of mankind: the

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the building thy Church,
and thy graces to the same.)
O Lord who onely art in
truth, permanent & stable:
through whom euery thing
is, that is, in respect of who
all is lesse then nothing,
who giuing by thy word
being to that that was not
at all, hast out of a confused,
void, and darke substance,
drawne light, beautie, and
order, stretching forth the
heauen as a vault or tent
vnder the same, the earth,
and the inhabitants therof,
who hast made all things in
number, weight, and mea-
sure; and from whose pro-
uidence doth proceed the
moderation & gouernment
of

Hausbold Prayers.

of all that is, whether it li-
ueth, feeleth, or vnderstan-
deth: O holy, thrice holy,
admirable, and amiable,
who being righteous, woul-
dest not suffer man, made
after thy image, to go vnpu-
nished when he had sinned,
and who, being mercifull,
hast not left him without
grace: who being good, hast
not neglected the least of
thy works, euen to the haire
of a beast, the lightest fether
of a fowle, and the least flo-
wer or leafe of grasse, in eue-
ry of these things graving
certaine tokens of thy glory
& maiesty, by the harmony
and agreement of all these
small creatures with the

C

grea-

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greatest of the world: O Father, and moderator of all things! I beseech thee, let thy eternal wisdom reach to mee euen through the light of thy spirit which seeth all things, which soundeth all things, which searcheth into all things, and which with his presence of grace, maketh his residence in all peaceable cogitations, to lift them vp by the effects of his gifts, vnto the sanctuary of thy supercelestiall palace, there to make them see, heare and worship, in spirit and truth, the diuine maruels of thy Kingdome, and the mysteries of the adoption of thy elect.

So

Household Prayers.

So that beeing thus taught
by thy most sacred Oracles,
I beleeeue in heart, and with
vnderstanding meditate v-
pon the true and eternall
existence of thee (O Fa-
ther) born of none, the first
Soueraigne and Almighty
cause of all things: and espe-
cially of our saluation
through the loue of thee (O
Sonne) eternally begotten
by the Father, & by whom
he hath made all his works,
who art the principall
cause, which giues vs life
and happines, according to
the fulnesse and perfection
of thy loue: and of thee (O
holy Ghost) from all eterni-
ty proceeding from the Fa-
C 2 ther

Master Bezaes

ther and the Sonne, and by whom all creatures do subsist, & saluation is communicated vnto vs : three persons, of properties distinct, yet not separate in vnitie of essence, and equality of glory : in thee one, & true God, not created, infinit, and almighty, and the God of thy people. And that through this healthfull knowledge, I doe worship, serue and call vpon thee onely for euer without declining from thy word. Whereupon likewise, through a stedfast faith in thy promises, depending vpon an assured hope, & true loue, I do more and more draw vpon my selfe the sa-
uour

Household Prayers.

uour of thy holy blessings:
to the end that as the An-
gels aboue doe praise thee,
the powers of heauen doe
blesse thee, and all the spiri-
tuall armies doe magnific
thee, I likewise may heere
below haue this felicitie, to
finish my course in singing
thy prayes, and so leauing
this terrestriall life, to ioyne
my self altogether to the ce-
lestiall, with those blessed
spirits in the full contēpla-
tion of thy face, to sing with
them without end this song
of perfect ioy (Glory be to
the Father that hath created
vs, glory be to the Son that
hath redeemed vs, glory be
to the holy Ghost that hath

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sanctified vs, glory be to the
most high Trinity, one only
God & Lord, whose King-
dome is euerlasting.

The fift Prayer,
For the obtaining of the
knowledge of God in
Iesus Christ.

*The Word was made flesh,
and dwelled among vs, full of
grace and truth, the Image of
the inuisible G O D, which is
Christ the Lord, who by him-
selfe hauing purged our sinnes,
 sitteth at the right hand of the
Maiesty in the highest places.
Ioh. 1. Col. 1. Luk. 2 Heb. 1.*

O God

Household Prayers.

O God and Father of
our Lord Christ
Iesus, & of al them
whom in thy loue
thou hast giuen to him to be
his brethren, it hath beene
thy good pleasure, to settle
our true and onely felicity
in the knowledg of thy ho-
ly name, and the effects of
thy grace. But wee are vn-
able to know thee, or to feel
the efficacie of thy loue to-
wards vs, but onely in the
same Christ, who is the
brightnes of thy glory, and
the engraue character of thy
persō, God with thee, & mā
with vs. By this thy eter-
nall word thou hast created
all the world: giuing vnto

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vs the first testimony of the
manifestation of thy wise-
dome and providence. But
thou giuest vnto vs a more
singular benefit in the mi-
raculous worke of our re-
dēption, which doth more-
ouer represēt vnto vs, both
thy great goodnes & loue,
and thy iustice, and infinite
power. Thy loue, in that
thou hast vouchsafed freely
to redeem man, who proud
& vnthankfull, withdrawes
himselſe from thee his Fa-
ther and benefactor, to sur-
render himselſe vnto Satan
the enemy to our saluation,
& of the honor of thy name
Thy iustice, in that thou
hast not spared the bloud of
thy

Household Prayers.

thy innocent Sonne, to the
end in his sufferings to iusti-
fie thy goodnesse & mercy.
Thy power, in that for the
accōplishing of this super-
naturall worke, thy Word,
which from al eternitie was
resident in thy bosome, of
one essence and glory with
thee, was made flesh. Ne-
uerthelesse I doe very well
know, that the depth of
these profound mysteries
cannot be discovered to our
senses, likewise that the trea-
sures of thy wisdom, of thy
counsell, and of thy iudge-
ments, are a very bottome-
lesse gulfe, & thy wayes vn-
possible to be found out. Al-
so, O Lord, I doe not rashly

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enter into the place, which
is forbidden me, neither wil
I imitate my first father *A-*
dam, who coueting to know
too much, streched forth
his hand vnto the forbiddē
tree, & desiring one onely
fruit, was depriued of al the
rest. I do only with flexible
heart embrace, & carefully
in my cogitation, according
to the measure of thy gifts,
meditate vpon the secreet of
godlines, which I haue re-
ceiued by the preaching of
thy Gospell, and do in part
know it, attending vntil that
being deliuered from sinne
and corruption, I may see
thee face to face, and in pre-
sence behold, that which
now

Household Prayers.

now I see as it were in a very darke Glasse. I beseech thee therefore, my G O D, vouchsafe, by the light of thy spirit, to adresse and guide mee to the faithfull knowledge of this great Sauiour, whom thou (Father) hast promised from the beginning, and in the latter times reuealed in signes & wonders surpassing all miracles, to the end that being instructed by his doctrine, I may by him, and in him, know thee to be the eternal liuing God, and the God of thy people, that according to his word I may worship and serue thee in spirit and truth, and in his name call
vpon

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vpon thee only in full confidence of thy mercy, accompanying him the onely subiect thereof, and the only mediator of my saluation, who died for my sins and rose againe for my righteousness, euen (O Lord) because it pleased thee in this manner to ordain of the estate of humane nature, the worke of thy hand. For who was thy counsellor? and what haue we, that we haue not receiued? grant me therefore in the study and meditation of so many mysteries so high, & so wholesom, that I may humbly condescend to thy diuine counsels, in worshipping them with this resolution

Household Prayers.

tiō of the Apostle, that I wil
not know any thing but
Christ, neither possesse any
thing but him, sith that in
him, the treasures of all wis-
dome doe consist, and that
they who lodge him in their
hearts, haue thee, O God,
verily present, and doe en-
ioy thee and thy benefits.
Make mee also to feele and
confesse this necessity com-
mon to all the children of
Adam, that for the cācelling
of this obligation, which
held vs bound to eternall
death (the iust reward of
sinne) wee were forced to
haue this great King of hea-
uen, holy, innocent, and se-
parate from all sinners, to
be

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be our high Priest, our sacrifice & oblation, vpon the altar of the crosse, to the end (O Lord) that according to thy vnsearchable decree, grounded vpon mercy and iustice, thy welbeloued Son hauing to himselfe vnited our nature the bondslauē of Satan, might leade it to the combat, directing it how to ouercome this great aduersarie: and this hath he done, obtaining for vs the victorie, when he brake the sting of death, and the bonds of hell, and that he rose out of the sepulchre, carying with him this humane nature as the earnest penny of our hope to thy right hand into
hea-

Houſhold Prayers.

heauen. Of this ſo ſingular
a benefit, let the remem-
brance be alwayes before
my face, that I may offer
vnto thee (O my God) the
ſacrifice of thankſgiuing all
the dayes of my life, ſo that
hauing my redeemer for a
perpetuall obiect, and ſure
foundatiō of my faith, in the
knowledge of thy name, I
may thorowly learn Chriſt,
not only to belecue by his
word the ſacred hiftorie of
his conceptiō & birth, with
his office of a ſoueraigne K.
great Prophet & perpetuall
law-giuer of his Church, al-
ſo his paſſiō, death, resurre-
ctiō & aſcenſion, but alſo
in full aſſurance in his pro-
miſes,

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mises, I may appropriate to my selfe the gifts and graces which he purchased for vs, by fulfilling that charge that hee had receiued from thee, ò Father, to the end, through him to make vs worthy of thy saluation : so as I may comfort and wholly repose my selfe vpon his obedience & righteousness, shewing forth, and sealing this my hope by good workes, to thy glory, ò eternall God, and the peace of my conscience, So be it.

The

Household Prayers.

The sixt Prayer,

For obtayning the gift of
the Holy Ghost.

*By the eternall Spirit, Christ
hath offered himselfe to God:
the Spirit which soundeth the
profound things of God: which
also testifieth with our spirit,
that we are the Children of
God. Heb. 9. 1. 1 Cor. 2. Ro. 8*

O Lord God All-
mightie, wee doe
learne in thy word
(the vnchangea-
ble truth) how without
confounding any thing in
the three persons of thy
most simple Deitie, or sepa-
rating

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rating the onely & indiuisible substance thereof, each person retaineth that which is proper to it selfe in the works of thy hands, especially in that which concerneth our saluatiō. So the beginning of all & euery action, is properly attributed vnto thee, O Father of the whole world, and to Iesus Christ, the wisdom, the counsell, & the order to dispose all things, and to the holy Ghost, the vertue and supporter of all thy works. According whereunto wee also doe acknowledge from thy loue, & frō thy eternall decree that which thou hast prouided for vs in thy Son
(very

Household Prayers.

(very God made very man)
such a Mediator & Sauour,
as was necessary for vs: and
we do render vnto him the
honor of: the fulnesse of thy
loue toward vs, and of that
perfect obedience which
he hath yeelded to thy or-
dinance, euē to the death of
the crosse for vs in most bit-
ter anguish, as also from the
vertue of the holy Ghost
we do confesse the efficacie
and healthfull application
of this great and principall
worke of our redemption.

But thy wisdom (O
Lord) resteth wholly in my-
sterie, that is to say, it is
hidden, except vnto those
to whom thy spirit giueth
light.

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sight. For true it is, that
Christ calleth all men vnto
him by his Gospell, sprea-
ding forth to that effect, his
light thorowout the whole
world. Who so followeth
him, shall not walke in
darknesse, for he is the Sun
of righteousnesse, and the
way to goe to heauen: But
his sheepe onely doe heare
his voice, and follow him:
as also he knoweth them &
giueth vnto them life euer-
lasting, even by the meere
efficacie of his spirit, which
quickneth and lightneth all
thy elect, O God, to make
thē in thy word to behold
the only lampe of thy king-
dome, the knowledge of
saluation,

• *Household Prayers.*

saluation, the stedfast good
of the soule, and the sure &
only meanes to obtaine the
same. All people may reade
thy sacred writings, only
they can gather the sense to
the peace of their soules,
whom it pleaseth thee as a
Father to illuminate from
aboue: for so may they see,
how in the Crosse of Iesus
they doe obtaine their tri-
umph; in his shame, their
glorie; in his paine, their
peace; in his teares, their
ioy; in his sorrow, their
comfort; in his death, their
life; in his resurrection, the
fulnells of their hope: I be-
seech thee therefore, my
God, to powre vpon me
this

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this thy spirit of wisdom,
& reuelation, and grace, &
mercy, through the force of
his beames, to scatter the
darknesse of my vnderstan-
ding, and with the property
of his fire to purifie my per-
uerse affections, with his
celestiall lampe to kindle in
my heart the true zeale of
his glory, with his holy
ointment to embalme my
conscience with his sacred
oile, to reioice & refresh my
bowels, & with his vertue
to renue in me an vpright
spirit, that my soule being
thus cleansed frō the dead
works of the flesh, may be
replenished with faith wor-
king all righteousness, wher-
by

Household Prayers.

by to ouercome all the enemies of my peace (Sathan, the flesh, the world, & my owne lusts.) But aboue all things, O Lord, make that by the efficacie of thy holy spirit, I may obtain the true and firme consolatiō of the faithfull soule, the height of his ioy, of his quiet & content, and the infallible directiō to his perfectiō, namely, the assurance that thou my heavenly Father hast adopted me into the number of thy childrē, by that grace that thou hast giuen vs in Christ, who was made our wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, & redemption. And that being so ouershadowed

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shadowed with the hope of
Christians which neuer at
all confoundeth, I may be
supported euē to the end of
my daies by thy holy spirit,
which then especially may
helpe my weaknesse, that I
may yeeld vnto thee (O my
God) my last grones, to thee
acceptable, & to me salutife-
rous, as being in the throne
of thy glory approued ca-
pable of the contemplation
thereof in the heavenly Ie-
rusalem, through thy good-
nes & mercy in Iesus Christ
our Lord: To whom with
thee, O Father, and the holy
Spirit, one only God, be all
honour, glory, & dominion
for euermore. So be it.

The

Household Prayers.

*The seventh Prayer,
To craue of God the light
of his word.*

*God hauing at sundry times
and in diuers manners, spo-
ken to our Fathers by the Pro-
phets: In these last dayes hee
hath spoken vnto vs by his Son.
All Scripture is giuen from a-
boue by inspiration, and is pro-
fitable to teach, to conuince, to
correct, and to instruct in righ-
teousnesse, that the man of God
may be accomplished, and per-
fectly instructed to all good
workes. Heb. 1. Tim. 3.*

D

Lord

Master Bezaes

Lord God eternall,
who knowest that
euery man is but
flesh, and that flesh
is but corruption, so that al-
though thou hast endued
him with a reasonable soule
which doth distinguish
him from other creatures,
yet his light is notwithstan-
ding conuerted into dark-
nelle, when thereby he see-
keth to penetrate into the
glory of thy Kingdome, and
the mysteries of thy grace :
who knowest that this poor
blinde borne destitute of
thy supernatural light, doth
in lieu of his God, forge to
himselfe an Idol, & instead
of truth, taketh lies; for thy
word,

Household Prayers.

word, his owne inuentions; for goodnesse, vanity; and for the path to life, the way to death. And albeit thou hast euen from the beginning made thy selfe as it were visible to man, in the table of the vniuersalworld, that thou hast many times reuealed thy selfe vnto him in a liuely voice, by thy eternall word in *Eden, Horeb*, in the burning bush, and elsewhere; afterward by thy Prophets, insinuating thy selfe by thy spirit into their hearts and thoughts, to the end by their ministry to instruct thy people: and finally that thou hast also manifested thy selfe in

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greater light by thy owne
word made flesh for our re-
demption, and speaking vn-
to vs by his mouth : Yea
which is more, that thou
hast so farre graced vs, that
this thy word of life hath
beene, and still remaineth
amongst vs, faithfully cole-
cted in the sacred registers
of the holy Scripture, to to
be vnto vs, the image of
thy glory, the Law of thy
Kingdome, the ladder to
heauen, the gate to Paradise,
the trumpet of saluation :
to be brieft, the treasury of
piety, vertue, wisdom, con-
solation and perfection :
Yet the flesh neuerthelesse
ignorant, rash and peruerse,
hath

Household Prayers.

hath nether eyes to perceiue
these spirituall riches, nor
eares to heare the whole-
some doctrine, but doth ra-
ther disdaine it, as it were
some deursed discourse, and
vnprofitable voice: or how-
soeuer it be, suffering it selfe
to bee carried away with it
owne and feeble imaginati-
ons, taketh in this vally,
(the thorne for the rose, the
leafe for the fruit, and the
huske for the kernell. And
thus are wee all borne in
this error, in this calamity,
in this way to mortall ru-
ine, vntill that thou (O
mercifull God) makest vs
to bee borne againe, of the
spirit, and in will to make

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our thoughts capable of the
light of thy word; & through
true faith, to apprehend the
mysteries of thy kingdome,
the couenant of life, the gos-
pell of thy peace, and the as-
sured testimonies of thy
mercies. Vnto this grace of
inestimable valew doth my
timerous soule direct her
vowes in searching thee (O
great King of Heauen,)
throughout the course of
thy faithfull testimonies,
which minister wisedome
to the ignorant (the holy
Scriptures) I beseech thee
therefore (my God) vouch-
safe to direct and guide
mee in the vnderstanding
of this eternal truth, through
the

Household Prayers.

the operation of thy spirit,
(the true teacher of our
soules) that being by him
instructed, I may accom-
plish & make my selfe per-
fect in these foure chiefe
principles of the doctrine
of saluation, which are fully
taught at large. (The know-
ledge of thee the true God,
and the God of thy people:
the knowledge of faith, of
pietie, and of righteousness.)
Whereby I may obtaine
the end of my being, and
therein euen my Soue-
raigne felicity, which is to
know thee, to glorifie thee
for my God, to belecue
thee, & in thee, Iesus Christ,
and in Iesus Christ, to loue,

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feare and serue thee, according as thou dost command vs, and in all things to observe equity towards all men. For thus are thy children bound to learn, according to the measure of the gift of thy grace, thy fatherly loue in thy well-beloued son, namely, by conioyning therto the feare of thy name that is to say, that reuerence that causeth vs in humilitie and obedience, to shun euil, to do good, and to embrace righteousnesse and charitie. Walking in this sort, ò Lord vnder thy conduct, in the communion of Saints I shal want nothing to my comfort or perfection, and in
good

Household Prayers.

good time, a departure, (my life being ended) to receiue peace and perfect ioy, in the eternall habitation of the blessed soules, So be it.

The eight Prayer,

That we may not depart
from the Church.

Christ hath loued the church
and giuen himselfe for her, to
the end he might sanctifie her,
after hee hath purged her by
the washing of water, through
the word. She is the house of
God, the prop and pillar of
truth, the gates of hell shall not
preuaile against her, Eph. 5.
1 Tim. 3. Mat. 16.

D 5

Al-

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Almighty G. O D,
righteous & merci-
full, who in thy iu-
stice and wrath, for
the iniquity and disobedi-
ence of man, diddest once
smite the world with the
ouerflowing of waters, and
in thy mercy and loue did-
dest extend thy singular fa-
uour vpon the Arke of thy
seruant *Noah*, sauing him &
his family from the general
inundation, intending in
that small flock of the faith-
full to preserue and keepe
thy chosen people that they
might for euer serue to thy
glory. I learne out of thy
word, that thou wilt no
more destroy the earth in
that

Household Prayers.

that manner, and therefore thou hast left vs the raine-bow to remaine for a signe. Neuerthelesse what else is our poore life languishing in the infection of sinne, but a deluge of euils, and a running streame of miseries that falleth vpon all men, and indifferently leadeth them vnto death? In one onely thing therefore must my soule take comfort, that as *Noah* was preserued frō the vniuersall shipwracke in his wodden mansion by the promise that he kept in his heart, so that a thousand falling on his right hand, and a thousand on his left hand, he remained sound and safe vnder

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vnder thy wing, euen so I
hold my self assured against
the assaults of sin, and in the
middest of the woful rocks
of this world, yea euen in
the straits of the graue, that
thou wilt alwayes preserue
from all calamities and mi-
series, those who stand fast
in the Arke of thy Church,
grounded vpon thy word
in the Gospell of reconcilia-
tion to the Lord Iesus, and
depart in his faith. For as ac-
cording to thy Iustice, thou
didst euen from the begin-
ning pronounce the sentēce
of death against our first pa-
rents, because of their trans-
gressions, euen so it pleased
thee, euen then also to com-
fort

Household Prayers.

fort the in thy mercy, with the promise of life in this great Redeemer to come, to the end, that embracing him by faith, they and their children holding this foundation, should erect vnto thee a temple of liuing stones, holy and stedfast for euer, for the sanctification of thy name, and the blessednesse of thy elect. And these are they (O Lord) who first in the time of the Patriarkes, then vnder the Law, and lastly vnder the Gospell, beleued thy word, worshipping thee according to the same, in certaiue mysteries of religion, in all places, whither it pleased thee to call.

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call, gather, and sanctifie
them by the remission of
their sinnes, in the bloud of
thy Son, regenerating them
to euery good worke, by
thy holy spirit, and of the
same grace, giuing them frō
age to age diuers visible
signes for sacraments in thy
Church; so indeed she is
thy house, and the palace of
thy glory, where thy truth
is lodged, which she vphol-
deth and aduanceth by her
holy ministerie, preserving
it also that it should not fall
into decay, and that the re-
membrance thereof should
not be lost frō among men:
wherof likewise proceedeth
the stebilitie of the Church,
which

Household Prayers.

which the endeouours of Satan cannot shake, because the foundation of her faith & doctrine is grounded vpon the true & immoucable rocke, euen the pure confession of the name of Christ. I doe therefore beseech thee my God, inasmuch as thy mercy and goodnesse hath brought me in, & hitherto held me vp in this mansion house of thy graces, that thou wilt vouchsafe more and more to illuminate my heart & minde, to make me see & meditate vpon the spirituall magnificence of this thy habitatiō, to the end y the sacred porches thereof may be my loue, & the only
delight

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delight of my eyes, and her
canticles the sole harmonie
of my eares : and that I may
so affectionate my selfe to
her celestiall beautie and ri-
ches, that I may hold one
day in thy Church more
deere then a thousand else-
where That this so sweet
company, I say, of thee (O
our Father) of thy Son our
redeemer, of the holy Ghost
our comforter, of so many
thousands of Angels, and of
elect, which liued here be-
neath in the visible king-
dome of thy glory, & by in-
finite wonders in the com-
munion of Saints, may be
my whole desire, & the sole
subiect of my delights, that

I

Household Prayers.

I may neuer depart there-
frō, notwithstanding what-
soeuer assaults and tempta-
tions I am to endure accor-
ding to the condition of the
militant Church, and vnder
this her gallant poesie (*To
beleene, to doe well, and to suf-
fer affliction*) sith that name-
ly there is not any such mis-
hap, or so much to be fea-
red, as to be out of this holy
temple, wherein only abi-
deth all light, truth, saluatiō
& life : and in all other pla-
ces, darknesse, lying, ship-
wracke, & death haue their
dwelling. For so through
thy grace, O my God, pray-
ing and meditating, I shall
spend my dayes in ioy, ex-
pecting

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pecting in peace, my last
houre, to participate in the
triumph of the same church
aboue, and to liue eternally
in thy rest. Amen.

The ninth Prayer,

For the obtaining of the
efficacie of holy
Baptisme.

*Iesus comming to his Disci-
ples, spake vnto them saying :
All power is giuen vnto me
both in heauen and in earth.
Goe yee therefore, and teach
all nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father,
and of the Sonne, and of the
Holy Ghost, and teaching
them*

Household Prayers.

*them to obserue all that I haue
commanded you. Matt. 28.*

O Eternall God, only
good and wise,
thou hast vouch-
safed by thy Son,
that great Prophet, to teach
vs, that whosoever is not
borne of water and the Spi-
rit, cannot enter into thy
kingdome; and that flesh
and bloud are not capable
of the sight of thy glorie.
Thou, O Lord, art essen-
tially holinesse and righte-
ousnesse: how then can
vncleannesse and iniustice
approach neere vnto thee?
So it is that wee are by
our nature corrupted, and
by

Master Bezaes

by sinne polluted, whereby
the sentence of death, both
first and second, hath ouer-
taken all men; howbeit, of
thy infinite mercy, thou
hast vouchsafed to saue fro
a gulse of miseries, those that
in thy vnsearchable counsell
are predestinate to life, re-
deeming them from hell, &
making them to be borne
again in Iesus Christ, thy
eternall Word, by which
thou haddest first giuen the
being. And these are they
that are borne of water and
the spirit into thy Church,
through the efficacie of the
sacred mysteries of thy
grace, and specially of holy
Baptisme, that being clo-
thed

Household Prayers.

thed anew in the nature &
righteousnes of Christ their
Saviour, they may become
new creatures, pure & pre-
cious before thee. Now
through thy great mercy
(O God) I haue in thy holy
temple receiued this sacred
pledge of thy couenant, and
of our new birth in thy
name, & in the name of thy
Son, & of the holy Ghost,
according to ordinance, as
it hath pleased thee in the
renewing of thy Church,
by the preaching of the
Gospel, to manifest thy selfe
farre more cleerely in three
persons of thy deitie, then
vnder the figures and sha-
dowes of the Law. For in
Christ,

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Christ, replenished with
grace and truth, thou hast
made thy selfe visible, who
hath revealed himselfe, and
the holy Ghost also, by ple-
tifully spreading the beams
of his glory vpo vs, through
the brightnes of his works,
altogether diuine & mira-
culous. We cannot so much
as apprehend the vertue &
efficacie of the sacrament of
baptisme, vnlesse we begin
by the meditatio of thy free
mercy in thy Sonne, and so
doe proceed in the contem-
plation of him, performing
his office, euen so farre forth
as to die for vs: & with him
we doe conioyne the holy
Ghost, through whō Christ
doth

Household Prayers.

doth wash vs in his bloud,
regenerateth vs, & maketh
vs partakers of all his bene-
fits. This, O Lord, I know
by thy word, that like as the
sacrament of Baptisme is
vnto me a certaine earnest
peny of my saluatiō, so must
it in my owne conscience, &
before men, be vnto me a
perpetuall testimonie of my
faith & of my hope. So only
doth this Sacrament ob-
taine his perfection and ful-
nes, namely, when that sha-
dowed in the washing of
my body with the signe of
water, is effectually wrought
within my soule, through-
out the whole course of my
life. For in like manner was
the

Master Bezaes

the shadow of the couenant
fulfilled, in cutting away
the fore skin from the chil-
dren of *Israel*, when by the
circumcision of their harts,
they became carefull to
walke in the statutes of
Gods Law. I beseech thee
therefore, O my God, as I
carry in my forehead the
holy marke of Christians,
so vouchsafe to graue in my
heart this diuine character,
to the end that I may euer-
more bring forth such fruit
& effects, as may be accep-
table in thy sight, and profi-
table to my selfe, that as my
Lord Iesus, by his spirit
working in me, washeth a-
way my sinnes, and regene-
rateth

Household Prayers.

rateth my soule, so I may likewise by the efficacy of his owne vertue, and receiving from him grace, perseuere in the faith of my Baptisme, ready to euery good worke. And that as I was baptised into his death, so likewise to be buried with him, by being dead vnto sin so that I may be grafted with him to the similitude of his resurrection in glory, liuing no longer to sinne, but to righteousness, whereby thy name (ô eternall God) may be sanctified; & I crowned in my latter day with the crowne of immortalitie amongst the company of thy blessed ones. So be it.

E

The

Master Bezaes

The tenth Prayer,

*For the receiuing of the
Communion.*

*Iesus tooke bread, and when
he had giuen thanks, he brake
it, and gaue it to the Disciples,
and said, Take eate, this is my
body. Then taking the cup and
giuing thanks, he gaue it them,
saying, Drinke yee all of it: For
this is my bloud of the New
Testament, ihat is shed for ma-
ny for the remission of sinnes.
Mat. 26.26.27.28.*

Almighty

Household Prayers,

Almighty and euer-
lasting God, accor-
ding to thy loue &
infinite goodnes, it
hath pleased thee, that not
onely to redeeme vs from
sinne, from death, and from
hell, & in all points to make
vs blessed, thy onely Sonne
(the brightnes and fulnesse
of thy glory) should take
vpon him humane flesh, &
after he had taught vs the
way to heauen, should dye
vpon the Crosse for the ac-
complishment of his office;
but also, that this great be-
nefit might still be present
to our perpetuall comfort,
and for the encrease and
support of our faith, that

E 2

his

Master Bezaes

his body risen againe in glory for our righteousness and perfection, ascended into heauen, and sitteth at thy right hand, should also bee communicated vnto vs nere beneath in thy Church, in the mystery of the Eucharist, to be our food and nourishment vnto holy & eternal life. Thus is there sealed in our hearts that promise that he hath made vnto vs in the Gospell, that he wil at all times make vs partakers of his flesh & of his bloud, and in this Cōmunion giue vnto vs the true and sound food of our soules, that in him (who is the liuing bread that descended from heauen)

Household Prayers.

heauen) wee may obtaine
our peace and felicity. O
mighty prouidence of the
Lord, who called vs to cō-
municate in his body before
his death, to shew vs that by
death he should not be de-
stroyed, and that he would
neuer leaue his Church. O
what a refreshing is this in
this our earthly pilgrimage!
and what a delicious ban-
quet, in the bread and wine
consecrated by the word of
Christ, to eate his glorious
flesh, and to drinke his pre-
cious bloud! when by faith
in his promises, and by the
vertue of his holy Spirit, ha-
uing our hearts cleansed &
lifted vp on high, his life, to-
E 3 gether

Master Bezaes

gether with all his graces & blessings is made ours. O infinitely blessed is that flock, that hath so liberall a shepherd, that will nourish it with his blood, to the end it may liue in him and of him, free from all languishing & misery. O what a comfort it is in this valley of teares, to finde meanes to feede vpon such food as will not perish, but reioyce all our senses, & make vs to liue eternally. For so, and with such efficacie (O Lord) doe we communicate in the body of thy Sonne crucified and risen againe, and in his blood shed for the washing of our soules, when at his holy Table

Household Prayers.

ble the sacred signes are by
his ordinance deliuered vn-
to vs, & that we doe receiue
them as hee hath comman-
ded, expecting that in hea-
uen, without any exterior
meanes, wee may eate this
bread of life, and drinke this
sweet drinke in the compa-
ny of the Angels, and of all
the blessed, then at the full
enjoying of our vnion with
thee, ô great God, & the ioy
of our beatitude accompli-
shed. O most desired day,
wherein we shall be fed and
satisfied with this celestially
bread, that wee may neuer
die nor thirst againe in this
new life, where thou O e-
ternall God, shalt be wholly

Master Bezaes

in vs. Oh happy are wee
already, who already in
Christ, in the communion
of the faithfull, do taste the
sweetnesse of this celestially
banquet, wherein we shal see
thee, & face to face contem-
plate thee the Father, Word
& Spirit, one onely and true
God, being filled with thy
glory in endlesse peace. To
the end therefore that accor-
ding to thy cōmandement,
O Lord, I may worthily
present my selfe to this holy
banquet of sacred foode
which the Angels doe ad-
mire and honor, and which
thou dost not communicate
but to thy flesh, I beseech
thee giue me grace well to
dis.

Household Prayers.

discerne the body of my Sa-
uour in trying my selfe ac-
cording to his word, so as
my heart may bee cleansed
from sin and vncleanes, &
replenished with thy loue &
with euery other spirituall
vertue, that euen this day
harboring therein this great
King of heauen, I may en-
crease in the faith and hope
of my saluation, by his holi-
nesse and righteousnesse. I
haue reposed all my confi-
dence in thy mercy, I nei-
ther seeke nor hope for any
good or grace but frō thee
(my God) and in thy Sonne
and for his sake I doe desire
in my place, with simplicity
to celebrate the remēbrance

Master Bezaes

of his death in the holy
Church, to the glory of thy
name, and the peace of my
soule. I renounce the dead
workes of the flesh, and the
lusts thereof: I doe put off
all enmity and malice, with
a full intent to embrace the
liuely worke of the spirit, &
to dwell in loue and charity
with my neighbours. I doe
beleue in the promises that
Christ (the infallible truth)
hath pronounced with his
owne mouth, That at his
holy Table hee will truly
make me partaker of his bo-
dy and bloud, that I may
possesse him wholly, and in
such sort, that being made
flesh of his flesh, and bone
of

Household Prayers.

of his bone, hee may liue in
me, and I in him for euer.
Helpe ô Lord, the weaknes
of my faith, support mee in
my infirmity, & in that de-
sire which thou giuest me to
profit in the sound know-
ledge of thy mysteries, and to
walke in the paths of thy
kingdome, and ioine to the
same desire the performāce
of the deed. For it is onely
by the vertue of thy spirit in
sincerity of heart, that I
shall this day receiue from
the same Iesus, the effect of
his word, in participating
truly in his new & eternall
testament, the couenant of
grace, so to perseuere in this
blessed societie of his body,
that

Master Bezaes

that from him I may incessantly gather strength and life, and vnited with him, I may also attaine to be one with thee my creator. Grant me therefore that in this manner I may with thy Church, colebrate the most holy remembrance of our Lord, and of the worke of our redemption, to the end, that so receiuing this great sacrament of his body, with a new augmentation in all heauenly grace, with so much the greater cōfidence I may againe call vpon thee my God and my Father, & more and more glorifie my selfe in thy mercies. So be it.

The

Household Prayers.

The eleuenth Prayer,

*For thanksgiuing after
the Communion.*

*And when they had sung a
Psalme, they went out vnto the
Mount of Oliues, Matt. 26.*

O Lord my God, and
my Father, euen
from the bottome
of my heart, and
with all my soule, I yeeld
thee praise and thankes, for
that it hath pleased thee to
enlarge so great a benefit to
me miserable sinner, as to
haue drawne, and receiued
me into the sacred Com-
munion

Master Bezaes

munion of thy Sonne Iesus
Christ my Sauour. The
heauen of heauens are not
able to comprehend him,
yet doth he so farre honour
vs, as to vouchsafe to com-
municate with vs, yea euen
to enter into vs. (poore
wormes of the earth :) for
such was thy good pleasure
(O Lord) to deliuer him
once to the death, for the
redemption of thy elect, &
as to euery one of them, so
dost thou this day giue him
to me, to be my food & spi-
rituall sustenance, that I
may liue of him and in him,
blessed both in body and
soule eternally. I beseech
thee therefore, O mercifull
Father,

Houſhold Prayers.

Father, ſo to bleſſe in mee
this holy & myſticall acti-
on, that my vnworthineſſe
make it not vnprofitable
vnto me, and that the preti-
ous blood of thy Son be not
in vaine ſhed for me, & of-
fered me to drinke: but that
washed in the ſame, & clen-
ſed from my ſinnes, I may
obtaine that iuſtification, &
holines, that beſeemeth thy
childrē, who haue this moſt
holy one to be their hoſt, &
head, and thy ſpirit for their
light. Let me not be ſo wret-
ched as to abuſe theſe ſacred
meats, which thou doſt cō-
municate to thy houſhold
of faith only, the prouiſion
wherof coſt thy welbeloued
Sonne

Master Bezaes

Sonne Iesus so deere. Rather (my God) grant that in true efficacie I may participate in this Sacrament of his body to increase in faith and loue, and all other thy gifts, that I may neuer abandon thy holy covenant. Alas, whither should I goe but to thee, the fountaine of eternall life, by Christ, who is the fulnesse thereof, and by whom it runneth into vs? Cast from me all carnall cogitations & delights, & all these earthly baits, which turne to gall and corruption, because I haue in my bowels an incorruptible food, more sweet then hony, the bread
of

Houſhold Prayers.

of Angels, the bread of hea-
uen, the bread of life, which
without any Sacrament we
ſhall feed on aboue, without
end ; where Chriſt, accor-
ding to his promiſe , ſhall
with vs drinke the fruit of
the new vine, yeelding vp
vnto thee the kingdome, O
eternal God that thou maiſt
be all in all. I doe therefore
reſigne my ſelfe into thy
hands, and vnder thy con-
duct , that I may run my
race in ioy, and a good con-
ſcience before thy face, and
before men: and that I may
depart in peace when my
houre is come , becauſe
Chriſt is my life. To thy
name therefore (O almighty
Creator)

Master Bezaes

Creator) to thee Redeemer
of the elect, to thee Com-
forter of the faithfull, who
by thy secret vertue doest
worke this vnspeakable &
miraculous coniunction of
our soules with the body of
the Lord: To thee Trinitie
(Father, Word, Spirit) one
only and true God, be all
honour and glory. Amen.

The twelfth Prayer,

To obtaine the gift
of Faith.

*The Law was our Schoole-
master, to bring us to Christ,
that we might be iustified by
faith. Abraham beleeued in
God,*

Household Prayers.

God, and it was imputed to him for righteousness: ye all are the children of God by the faith that is in Iesus Christ. Galath. 3 Rom. 4.

Almighty & eternal God, it hath pleased thee in thy vnsearchable counsel, for a time to giue vnto men the law, to the end to guide them to Iesus Christ, vnder a schoole-house of figures and shadowes, euen those whom thou of thy grace hast called into the faith of this promised Sauour, to obtaine in him their iustification and saluation. And when in the fulnesse of
time

Master Bezaes

time he appeared vnto vs,
clothed in our nature, for
the accomplishing of thy
great & pretious promises,
this iustification of thy elect
was fully reuealed & made
ours, by beleefe in his Gos-
pell. But (O Lord) thou
dost well know, and euery
man in himselfe feeleth the
incredulitie & weaknesse of
man, who being but earth,
and flesh, cannot climbe vp
into heauen, & to the spirit
of life, so to confesse, & ap-
prehend these deepe myste-
ries of thy loue. And indeed
it is an ancient & common
complaint of thy Prophets
and Apostles, who many
times haue said as much (O
Lord

Household Prayers.

Lord who hath beleueed
our preaching?) Also there
be so many impostures in
the world, so many dreams,
so many inuentions, yea,
which is more, so many as-
saults, so many snares, and
so ordinary miseries, that
shake the best. To be brieft,
so great is the vanitie, igno-
rance, and infirmitie of our
nature, that if thou (O most
mercifull God) workest not
that in vs, which thou com-
mandest vs to doe, if thou
dost not teach vs, that we
may know, if thou dost not
conuert vs, that we may
cleaue to thy word, if thou
dost not giue vs to thy Son,
that he may keepe vs thine,
if

Maſter Bezaes

if he bring vs not cloathed
in his rightcouſneſſe to the
throne of thy grace, & if thy
ſpirit leadeth vs not in the
paths of thy kingdome,
holdeth vs faſt in the effects
of his gifts, vpon the way of
thy truth, wee cannot har-
ken to this voice of the
ſhepheard of our ſoules, nei-
ther in our hearts conceiue
ſuch and ſo liuely a faith,
that all vncertaintie might
be baniſhed, and the ſame
ſealed with his owne effica-
cie: much leſſe can we feele
the peace and ioy that true
faith bringeth with it. For
that cauſe (O Lord) in thy
loue haſt thou promiſed to
poure vpon thy children
and

Household Prayers.

and seruants this spirit of thy strength, light, mercie, and perfection, to forme in their hearts, this thy singular gift, which vnto vs is a substance of the things that we hope for, and a demonstration of those that we see not. By this so holy and necessary an ornament of the faithfull, we do in all assurance cry vnto thee, *Abba Father*, & in our consciences feelee, that we are at peace with thy Maiestie, through Christ, being iustified in his blood, that we may liue religiously and holily according to his word. I do therefore beseech thee, my God, to accomplish in me these
great

Master Bezaes

great effects of thy loue,
new cloathing me with the
light & vertue of thy holy
spirit, that after the measure
of the gift thereof, I may be
able, with a true and liuely
faith, to penetrate into the
secret of my calling, and to
that end, vouchsafe so to
augment in me this faith,
that by the degrees of the
perfection thereof, it may
appeare in all her fruits, cau-
sing me to worship, inuo-
cate & serue thee according
as thou commandest, that
my vnderstanding may be
withdrawne from the se-
duction of error, and my
will from carnall concupi-
scence, also that my heart
may

Household Prayers.

may infinitely be comforted
with the feeling of this, that
by Christ I am reconciled
to thee to holinesse of life,
and eternall beatitude: so
that daily increasing in this
all spirituall vertue, I may
attaine to some portion of
thy soueraigne wisdom &
perfect righteousness, to the
end that when my soule
shall forsake this fleshly ha-
bitation, the same faith may
be as wings to transport it
into thy bosome, to the ce-
lestiall rest of the Angels &
Saints, there to possesse the
fulnesse of her peace, and of
all ioy. So be it.

R

The

Master Bezaes

The thirteenth Prayer,

*To obtaine the vertue
of Hope.*

*God, by his great mercy,
hath regenerated vs to a line-
ly hope, by the resurrection of
Iesus Christ from the dead.
To the end that being iustified
by his grace, wee should bee
made heires according to the
hope of eternall life, which hope
maketh vs not ashamed, 1 Pet.
1 Tim. 3. Rom. 5.*

Household Prayers.

O God all good and wise, it hath pleased thee by certain meanes and proceedings, to worke in thy elect, regeneration necessary for their saluation, whereby they doe in themselves feeble the old *Adam* to dye with his lusts, and the new man to increase in the desires of righteousness, when the holy Ghost euen this day plucketh out of their hearts vice, and instead thereof, planteth vertue, making it to bring forth fruit, thereby furthering daily the rooting out of sinne, and increase of the gifts of thy grace. I be-

F 2 seech

Master Bezaes

seech thee (O Lord) that as
it hath pleased thee freely to
iustifie mee by the singular
gift of faith in our Saviour
Iesus Christ, granting mee
peace with thy Maiestie
through his sacrifice: so thou
wouldest vouchsafe to illu-
minate the eyes of my soule,
as to make me know, to the
sanctification of thy name,
what the hope of those is,
whom thou hast called to
the incorruptible inheri-
tance of thy glory. Grant (ô
God) that my thoughts may
be replenished and conten-
ted with this stedfast hope
in thy loue which thou offe-
rest vnto vs in the Gospell,
with this holy desire, I say,
supporte d

Household Prayers.

supported with an assured expectation one day & for ever to obtaine the celestiall riches, which thou hast grāted me to belecue, which no eye hath seen, nor eare hath heard, nor any vnderstanding hath comprehended: namely, that I may be able to behold thy countenance, and liue to participate without end, thy kingdome aboue, to inioy there the society of the Angels, to bee there a fellow heire with the glorified Spirits; finally, there to be fully vnited vnto Christ, & by him to thee, ô Father, the fountain of life eternall, & so to possesse the soueraigne good eternally.

F 2

Let

Master Bezaes

Let this holy meditation & the hope to enjoy that full and perfect contentment, so occupy my senses, that it may bee my thought, my pleasure, my labour, my habitation, and my most ordinary vacation. Also that all the cares of the world, & the affections of my flesh, which might diuert mee from so christian a resolution, may giue place to this spirituall vertue, the anker whereof resteth in Heauen, that it may lodge wholly & for euer in the secret of my heart : sith it is very true that it will yeeld as certainly his solid and sole good, in fulnesse of time, as if already

Household Prayers.

ready I did possesse it, vni-
ting me vnto thee (O Lord)
by the holy mysteries of thy
grace. Also thou art the be-
ginning and the end of our
hope of eternall life, be-
cause thy loue is powred v-
pon vs by the holy Ghost,
whom thou hast giuen vs,
and thy Sonne Iesus is the
meane and fulnesse, accor-
ding as in him doth remain
all that is beautiful, delecta-
ble, peaceable, rich, perma-
nent, and glorious aboue in
Heauen, which thou hast
promised vs. Of which tre-
sure of inestimable valew,
thou dost thus euen already
grant me the vse, by the ef-
fects of thy diuine vertues,

F 4 which

Master Bezaes

which make mee to pierce
through the heauens with
my imagination, & to esta-
blish my soule in thy peace,
as if in my bosome I kept
the ful fruit of thy promise,
and did already liue there a-
boue in like estate as the
Angels. For O eternall God
thy mercy is vpon mee, as I
doe trust in thee. And ther-
fore. albeit I creepe here v

and downe through many
infirmities, yet will I in pa-
tience abide the appearing
of thy glory in the day of
the comming of thy Sonne
to iudge the quicke and the
dead, as being thorowly as-
sured, through thy grace, in
the end of my course, to ob-
taine

Household Prayers.

taine the diadem wherewith
thou crownest thine: and at
the last day and euer, in my
flesh to behold that great
Saviour of the elect, who li-
ueth with thee and the ho-
ly Ghost, one God eternally
Amen.

The fourteenth Prayer,

To obtaine the vertue
of Loue.

*God is loue, and hee that
dwelleth in loue dwelleth in
God, and God in him. The end
of the Law is loue out of a pure
heart and a good conscience,
and faith vnfeined, 1 Iohn 4
1. Tim. 1.*

Master Bezaes

O Eternall God, who art all loue, and who according to the infinite vertue thereof hast loued vs before wee were, as also since the time that we were thy enemies, vnthankfull sinners, adiudged to death, and to the paines of hell, thou hast I say, freely so loued vs, that thou hast giuen thy only Sonne to the world, to redeeme vs, with the price of his bloud, and for vs to purchase righteousness, & a blessed life: This being so, O Lord, the originall and fountaine of loue, make it with efficacy and reflection to shine into all places, whither

Household Prayers.

whither the knowledge of
thy grace shall come : like-
wise, that where thou dost
more neerely communicate
thy selfe, by making the
flames of thy loue to bee
more liuely felt, grant also,
that there by the effects of
thy spirit, the greater loue
towards thee may appeare.
I besech thee make me more
& more to meditate of this
thy admirable loue, that I
may accordingly frame my
selfe to that loue thou requi-
rest of thy children, & truly
faithfull, which is also the
end of the whole law, and
preceps of the Gospell. So
that in purenes of hart, with
an vpright conscience, and
with

Master Bezaes

with a true and liuely faith,
I may attaine to the know-
ledge of thy truth and will,
to the end, in all & through
all, to obey thee with a quiet
conscience, the same being
the chiefest, the highest, and
the most perfect degree of
loue that we can testifie vn-
to thee (ô our God) & that
which leadeth vs to the per-
fection of Christian life,
which of mortall men ma-
keth vs as it were Angels, &
albeit we liue vpon earth, it
makes vs citizens of heauē;
to be briefe, it is that which
in the secret of our harts gi-
ueth vs a sweet feeling of
thy peace which surmoun-
teth all the reason of our
vn-

Household Prayers.

vnderstanding. That also
thereby I may learne, that
there is none that can loue
thee perfectly, vntill he
hath bene preuented by
the sweetnesse of thy vn-
measurable loue, & kindled
with the flame. That wee
loue thee, because thou first
louedst vs, and like as also
through thy grace thou ma-
kest thy selfe and thy bene-
fits knowne vnto vs. The
more therefore that we find
our selues disposed to loue
thee, the more should we
beleue that thou makest
thy selfe to be felt in the in-
ward parts of our soules, to
be our God and our Father,
and that therefore we haue
the

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the greater cause to confirm & comfort our selues in the loue that thou bearest vs. O Lord make me also to vnderstand, that as Christian charitie doth especially regard and looke vpon the holy deitie, (Father, Sonne, and holy Ghost) one onely God, that we may loue thee with our whole hearts, minds, & strengths : so hath she a like regard to her neighbour, that in thee, and for thy sake, because he beareth thy image, we may loue him as our selues : for in these conioyned and reciprocall things also Christ teacheth vs the bond of perfection, euen that wee shall

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shall indeed be his disciples, if we loue one another, because he so shall fulfill his loue in our hearts. But being, O Lord, very true, that the faith which thou givest vs doth singularly vnite thy familie together, grant me the spirit of loue, which leading me to doe well to all men, doth teach me principally to loue the household of thy Church, that I may with a ready will, yeeld them all helpe in their necessities. Inasmuch also as our Redeemer (the perfect patterne of charitie) hath loued his enemies, procuring them good for euill, and blessing for iniurie,

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I beseech thee, my God,
giue me grace to extend my
loue to those that hate me,
that without hypocrisie, or
vaine glory, I may, to my
power, helpe forward their
good and saluation. And so
that I may beare an vpright
and lowly heart to all men,
whereby all the faithfull
may be edified and comforted:
and others, seeing my
good workes (rather thine
than mine) may be constrained
to glorifie thee, O our
Father which art in heauen.

The fifteenth Prayer,

That we may well vse
afflictions.

If

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*If any man will follow me,
let him forsake himselfe, and
take up his crosse and follow
me. By many tribulations we
must enter into the kingdome
of heauen. He chastiseth him
whom he loueth, and scourgeth
euery child that he receiueth.
Matt. 16. Act. 14. Heb. 12.*

O Lord, my God and
my father, I learne
in thy word that
none be true Dis-
ciples of Iesus Christ, but
they that follow his steps,
whereof he hath deliuered
vs a sure marke in these two
chiefe points (the renoun-
cing of our selues, and the
voluntarie enduring of the
crosse)

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crosse.) For naturally wee are inueagled with a disorderly loue to our selues, and doe presume too much of our owne persons. It is therefore necessary for vs to renounce our owne nature and reason, and to abandon our owne affections, to suffer thee and thy loue, O our God, to liue & raigne in vs. Then must we proceed to the other point, that is, cheerefully to beare out the afflictions and miseries of this life, wherein it pleaseth thee especially to exercise thine, vpon diuers good considerations, namely, o make them conformable to the image of thy Sonne, to
the

Household Prayers.

the end, that suffering with him, they may also raigne in his glory. For it is very true, that all men by sinne doe eat the fruits of the earth in labour, and bread in the sweat of their browes: that they all liue in a sea, tossed with many stormes, and crossed with many anguishes. But all haue not the gift of thy spirit, to learne by his doctrine that the bread of affliction doth nourish and strengthen the faithfull soule, that the cup of bitternesse is thereunto a sweet & wholesome drinke, & all tribulation a spirituall medicine to purge it from the leaues of sinne, and so to
forme

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forme euery true Christian
to godlinesse and holinesse
of life. For indeed the sun-
dry temptations thy chil-
dren doe endure, are not
properly a punishment for
sinne, but profitable corre-
ctions of thy hand, to make
the triall of their faith to re-
dound to their commenda-
tion and profit, that their
hope may increase in the
expectation of the beati-
tude to come, that their loue
may kindle through the fa-
therly care that thou takest
of them, in holding them
vnder the bridle of thy dis-
cipline, and that they may
be the more pricked for-
ward to pray vnto thee fer-
uently,

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uently, and more and more
to reuerence thy power. But
principally that they com-
fort themselues in this les-
son of the Apostle, that the
easie afflictions of thine,
which doe but euen passe
ouer them, doe bring forth
an eternall weight of most
excellent glorie. True it is,
that by the miseries of this
world, the outward man
declineth ; but on the other
side, the inward man renu-
eth himselfe with grace in
the goods of the soule, so
long, vntill by degrees he
be accomplished & obtaine
his perfection. So that if
our bodies doe languish, our
soules doe quicken ; if we
sustaine

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sustaine losse of terrestriall things, thou (O Lord) dost present vnto vs thy kingdome of heauen; and if this affliction befall, that any man put vs to death, he doth but hasten our passage to the true eternall & blessed being. I beseech thee therefore (O mercifull Father) to giue me grace to acknowledge, and well to taste so many sweet & profitable fruits, as these thy fatherly corrections do bring with them: constantly meditating that the eyes of those that looke vnto thee in a Christian hope doe neuer faile, that their expectation hath not confounded them.

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there, that the number of
thy consolations haue sur-
mounted their sorrowes :
and that the end of thy visi-
tation hath alwayes beene
profitable vnto them. For
thou delightest in mercy, &
thy compassion is vpon all
those that call vpon thee in
their distresse. Let therefore
the inuocation of thy name
be vnto me a strong tower,
to defend me against all
feare and temptation, as be-
ing assured that hauing re-
posed my confidence in thy
grace which is purchased
for me in Christ, I shall by
thy vertue be able to over-
come all the enemies of my
peace. But especially grant,

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O Lord, that I may attaine
to this reason of true wise-
dome, alwaies to be content
with thy wil, the soueraigne
and iust cause of all things ;
namely, in that it pleaseth
thee, that the liuerie of thy
houshold should consist in
carrying their crosse after
thy Sonne, to the end that
I should neuer but be seaso-
ned to drinke the whole-
some myrrh which purgeth
the soule from the lusts of
the flesh, and replenisheth
the same with the desires of
eternall life. Also that I
learne in whatsoeuer my
estate, cheerefully to submit
my selfe to the conduct of
thy prouidence, as being

well

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well assured, that whatsoever I suffer, all the crosses of my life shall be vnto me so many blessings & helps from thee my Father, to make me goe the right way into thy kingdome, and increase vnto me the price of glory in the same. For it is very true that euery one shall freely receiue his reward according to the burthen that he hath borne here below.

The sixteenth Prayer,

For obtaining the vertue
of Patience.

*All things written are for
our learning, that we, through*
G patience

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patience and comfort of the
Scriptures might haue hope,
patient in tribulation, perseue-
ring in praier. Rom. 4. & 12.*

O God of patience,
and of all consolati-
on; the iust dis-
penser both of ca-
lamities and benefits, and
that all to one end, euer-
more happy to those whom
thou louest in thy eternall
Son, our Lord Iesus Christ.
As there is nothing in thy
word, but serueth to our
learning, & to the guiding
of our temporall life, as a
meanes to obtaine the pos-
session of heauenly ioyes: so
doth it principally insift in
this,

Household Prayers.

this, to lift vp our hearts to
an earnest meditation, and
firme expectation of eter-
nall life, standing vs in stead
among the thornes of this
world, to the attaining of a
constant patience, and ther-
in confirming vs by holy
consolations, to the end,
that hauing done thy will,
O Lord, we may reape thy
promise. This vertue there-
fore is the firme pillar of our
hope, and which teacheth
vs, not to loue the things
of the earth, as any felici-
tie, but constantly to looke
vp into heauen, where
our peace and ioy doth re-
maine. But because the ef-
fect of so holy a resolution
G 2 doth

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doth far surmount our own
forces, I beseech thee (my
God) to grant me this true
patience of the faithfull,
which is so necessary for
me, namely with a meeke
heart to beare all aduersitie;
also that I may learne to
humble the pride of my na-
ture, which otherwise is ex-
cessiue, & not to be tamed,
that so I may acknowledge
& know how to contemne
the vanitie of the flesh his
reasoning, which together
with the lusts therof is with
sweet and delicate things
nourished vnto death : and
that contrariwise I may af-
fectionate, and strengthen
my selfe with godly medi-
tations

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tations of the spirit, which
sustaine themselves with
hard and sharpe things, to a
holy and heauenly life: that
going forward, I may re-
ioyce and take comfort in
these sacred oracles: That
affliction in the house of the
righteous, is a secret mercy
which thou giuest him, as
prosperitie with the wicked
is a hidden indignation of
thy countenance: That the
present sorrow of thy chil-
dren is vnto thee the watch
of some future ioy at hand,
and that at all aduentures,
the last of their most pain-
full daies is the first of their
eternall rest, in the second
life. If therefore I beare any

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sicknesse, or other misery in my flesh, let it be borne with patience, as knowing very well, that the reward of sin is death, and the sorrowes and distemperatures of the body are the heraults, and necessary fore-runners, even acceptable to all true faithfull people, because they call and dispose them to depart from labour to rest, from a mortall estate to immortallitie of life. If I haue but few of these goods & vaine honours of the world, that doe so vex worldly men, I doe liue in the greater content, not subiect to their enuie, but taking comfort in the true and only goods of
the

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the soule, whereof, O Lord,
thou art the liberall giuer,
as also of grace, to those that
are thine, because thou art
their Father. O Lord our
Redcemer, if I lose some
of my friends, euen of those
that are very neere me, yet
can I take it peaceably, be-
cause their felicitie is haste-
ned, in that they depart in
Christ, and that I can lose
neither thee, nor the conso-
lation of thy spirit, for that
I shall soone after follow
them into heauen, whereby
I shal therfore be the rather
moued to giue thee thanks
for the time that thy good-
nesse hath giuen me to en-
ioy their presence, to the

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comfort of my life, and not
as it were by a kinde of
ingratitude towards both
thee and them, mourne for
their ioy and felicitie. In all
other sorrowes and griefes
that should lesse trouble vs,
giue mee grace, my Lord,
that I be not moued to bit-
ternesse or anger, but that
with a quiet minde, I may
beare all, and tread vnder
feet the thornes of my life,
as being assured in the end
to finde a reward. To the
same end also touch my
heart with the feeling of thy
benefits ; namely, of those
which thou hast liberally
granted vs for the necessi-
ties of this life, lest, as an in-
gratefull

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gratefull wretch; I should forget them, after the manner of carnall men, that are neuer content with thy benefits, but doe enioy them without any acknowledgement, & which is more, are ready to complaine if they haue not all their vanities at a wish: yea which is worst of all, when they haue often eaten at the table of thy Son, doe lift vp their heele against him: wherein they are worse then beasts, that do acknowledge those that feed and dresse them, & doe humble themselves in their presence. O most mightie God, deliuer me from the counsel of these wicked ones,

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and hypocrites, and let mee
not sit vpon the seat of the
scorners, with whom godli-
nesse is follie, and the equity
of thy law but a sport. But
whether I walke, or stand
still, whether I do, or suffer,
grant, O Lord, that I may
alwayes walke as in thy
presence, to the glory of thy
holy name, & that my soule
may take counsell, and be
satisfied in thy righteous-
nesse, whilst in all patience I
wait for my deliuerance
from all paine, and the per-
fection of my felicitie, at my
departure from this carnall
habitation, when according
to thy promise I shall be re-
ceiued into thy kingdome,
in

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in the company of the Angels and Saints, there to behold thy glory eternally. So be it.

The seventeenth Prayer,

For the good vsage of
mans life.

Thus saith the Lord, let not the wise man boast of his wisdom, neither the strong man of his strength, neither the rich man of his riches : but let him that boasteth, doe it because he hath vnderstanding, and knoweth me, that I am the Lord who shew mercy, indgement and iustice vpon the earth. Ierem. 9.

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O Lord, great and wonderfull in thy workes, thou in thy wisdome hast made & ordained them all; whereupon the heauens, without speaking, doe declare thy glory, & the earth is full of thy riches: but especially vpon man hast thou poured forth thy most abundant treasures, in that thou hast created him to thy likenesse, excellent in all good things, & established him possessor of the world, Lord of all other creatures, the mirrour of thy wisdome, the beames of thy light, and the pattern of thy goodnes, and the most noble instrument of the sanctification

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fication of thy name: therefore hast thou endued him with an immortall spirit, capable of reason, to the end that in beholding here beneath the exquisite workes of thy hands, & vsing them, without interruption, hee might know, loue, feare, and honor thee as his father and benefactor: yea, cleaue vnto thee for euer, vsing his life according to the principall end thereof. True it is, that by originall sinne wee are fallen from the most singular qualities, necessary for the holding of our right course to so great felicity: yet haue we not so put them off as to rest altogether naked,

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ked, for all that is re-establi-
shed in vs, and in a farre bet-
ter condition, by thy grace
in our Lord Iesus Christ,
who clothes vs anew with
the new man, in a quick-
ning spirit, and furnisheth
vs with his light, to the end,
that in the serious meditati-
on of thy visible workes,
and in the right vse of the
benefits which we tast ther-
in, we might apprehend the
celestiall inuisible things,
and acknowledge thee the
author and perfection of all
that is : That is, how the
heauens appearing to our
eyes, and the greatnesse, and
the beauty, and the motions
thereof in so many sorts, so
well

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well ordered, and so profitable, do make vs, with our intelligence, to penetrate euen vnto thee, the admirable creator of all things ; & in the excellēcy of the same to meditate vpon the height & depth of thy excellency, to the end, to sing vnto thee Psalmes of thanksgiuing, & in the selfe same, to find rest and comfort for our soules. And whereas the Sun lighteth and warmeth vs, the day reioyceth vs, the aire quickneth vs, the earth feedeth vs, the water moisteth vs, and the night ministers to vs rest from our labours : and which is more (O Father of all the world) wher-

as

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as thou maintainest orders
and governments, that thou
puldest downe the proud &
exaltest the humble, that
thou extendest thy punish-
ments vpon the earth & the
inhabitants thereof, that
thou visitest thē with mer-
cy, exercising thy iudge-
ments vpon small families
as well as vpon great Mo-
narchies (according as there
is nothing in nature that ta-
keth place, more or lesse, in
respect of thy infinit glory,)
surely in all these things, O
inuisible God, thou makest
thy selfe to be seene, and gi-
uest vs cause to sing to thy
name with a most excellent
inducement to passe ouer

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our life soberly. But if wee
turn vnto our selues to con-
sider our owne nature, espe-
cially the faculties of the
foule, and the reason there-
of, which directs the body,
and giues diuers vertues to
all the senses, and that wee
represent to our selues the
admirable coniunction of
the immortall essence with
the mortall : Indeede rumi-
nating these workes of thy
hands, and vnable to com-
prehend the causes and se-
creters of the same, wee yeeld
our selues ouercome, that
wee may preach forth the
victory of thy soueraigne
wisdom, and say with the
Prophet, (Thy knowledge

IS

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too maruelous for vs, that we cannot approach thereto.) But if proceeding beyond this booke of Nature, wee come to reade in the booke of the Lambe slaine for our ransome, and to see and meditate vpon the husbandry of thy sheepfold, and the abundance of celestially blessings in the same, O Lord, what height and depth of wisdom, of charity, of mercy, of iustice is in the same? O the greatnesse of ioy, and peace to the illuminat harts, that can penetrate into all these diuine misteries, when wee come to the Church to learne thy law, to heare the Gospell, to worship and call

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cal vpon thee, and to sound forth thy praise, we are as it were in the sanctuary of thy kingdome, and before thy face among the Angells to contemplate and celebrate thy glory.

Also when we do communicate in the sacred signes of thy covenant, we see, we touch, wee taste, with our eyes, with our hands, and with the pallat of our soules the water of washing and regeneration, and the bread of life (the food of the sanctified spirits) wherof we liue, and shall liue for euer blessed. Besides (O heavenly Father) it pleaseth thee to giue vs heere below in the follow-

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following of our course, a
conuenient leasure, to me-
ditate vpon the most won-
derfull effects of thy Spirit
in vs, the singular worke of
our new birth, the progresse
of our faith, the fruits of our
loue, the feeling of our
peace, in the hope of our sal-
uation to come, when wee
shall, by Christ, be wholly
vnited vnto thee alone. I be-
seech thee therefore, my
God, to giue mee grace in
these godly and spirituall
considerations, to acknow-
ledge thy great benignity in
the gift and vse of this hu-
mane life, and to know how
I am to cherish and nourish
the same, because it is to vs

as

Household Prayers.

as a treasure, abounding in
all excellencies, riches, and
prerogatiues, which it hath
pleased thee to impart to
our nature, the image of thy
glory. So that remaining
constant in my vocation, in
the paths of thy kingdome,
and free from the cares of
the world, and all the vani-
ties thereof, I may so loue
this life, that it may be who-
ly deare vnto me, onely to
know, worship, and serue
thee, and my neighbour, ac-
cording to the place where-
to thou dost call mee, and
carefully to meditate to the
same end, how thou doest
alwayes minister iustice,
iudgement, and mercy,
where by

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whereby I may learne to
liue content in thee onely,
and of thy goods, vsing the
same with acknowledge-
ment, and alwayes reioy-
cing in well doing; alwayes
assured that thus fighting a
good fight, and keeping the
faith, I shall obtaine the
crowne of eternall righte-
ousnesse in the kingdome of
glory. So be it.

The eighteenth Prayer,

Vpon temporall death.

*Our life is but as a vapour
which appeares but for a while
and then vanisbeth away: For
the reward of sin is death, and
the*

Household Prayers.

*the sting thereof is sinne. But
thankes bee to God who hath
giuen vs victory, through our
Lord Iesus Christ, Rom. 6.
1 Cor. 15.*

O Eternal God, with
whom a thousand
yeares are as one
day, and one day
as a thousand yeares, and
whose iudgements so di-
uers, are holy, iust, and in-
comprehensible. Where is
the man so gallāt or proud,
who thinking vpon the va-
nitie and shortnesse of his
life, doth not easily assuage
his pride and presumption,
euen to the end that hee ex-
tend not his temporal cogi-
tations

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tations too farre, but keepe them bounded within the limits of thy law, and refer the euent to the good pleasure of thy will?

The vertue of our fairest dayes is but affliction of minde, and misery of our flesh, we fall as by a gushing of waters, we passe away as a dreame, or a smoake, our yeares doe consume like grasse, that withereth from night vnto morning, and the longest time of our course (whereof sleepe nibbleth away a good part) is but threescore & ten yeares, or fourscore for the strongest bodies, whilest in euery moment of life, the nearest and
smallest

Household Prayers.

smallest danger that threat-
neth vs, seemeth as death,
which as our shadow, fol-
loweth vs at the heeles, and
laugheth at our goodly de-
uices, vntill she hath scatter-
ed them in the winde, and
brought vs into ashes. But
which is worse, where is the
man so holy & perfect, that
doth not tremble if there be
represented vnto him (O
Lord) the tribunall seat
of thy soueraigne iustice,
where wee all after death
must appeare ? Thy in-
dignation against sinners
is manifest, (and there is
none righteous) thy ven-
geance is ready against re-
bellion (whereof we be all
H guiltie)

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guiltie) which doth also
cause, that death is vnto vs
not only as a temporall en-
ding concerning the flesh,
(whereat nature is moued
and abashed) but also an in-
terior feeling of the curse
fallen vpon sin, yea euen an
entrie into eternall death,
vnlesse there be for vs with
thee our Father, redempti-
on in our Lord Iesus Christ.
I beseech thee therefore, my
God, to giue me grace to
know, how to meditate
euery day of my life vpon
this sentence of the holy
Ghost, (That it is decreed
that all men shall die once,
& after that shall the iudge-
ment follow) to the end
that

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that while I creepe vp and
downe in this earthly mire,
I suffer not my selfe to be
deceiued with the deceitful
baits of the pleasures of this
world, neither with the al-
lurements of the deuill, who
still seeketh by his subtilties
to race out of our hearts the
remembrance of death, so
for to detaine vs in the
thoughts of vanitie, and to
entangle vs in the snares of
our lusts. Grant me rather
(O Lord) to know the vile-
nesse and bitternesse of this
miserable life, to the end
that withdrawing my affe-
ction from mortall things, I
may be able to direct and
stay my selfe in things sted-

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fast and eternall. And also
that thereby the remem-
brance of death may daily
be vnto me as a trumpeter to
waken and call me to the
pursuit of my life, in the
path of thy truth, and to
kindle in me a holy desire,
soone to depart out of the
world, wherein the longer
a man soiournes, the more
is he loaden with infernall
marchandize (which is the
filthinesse of sinne) and the
more he cutteth himselfe off
from that portion of soue-
raigne felicitie which is in
the life to come. Truly he
that hath most yeares hath
most iniquitie, and he that
croucheth most in the mire
of

Household Prayers.

of the world, rotteth most.
And therefore to the children of darknesse, the vncleannesse of the flesh is a pleasant habitation: but to the children of light, to the immortall spirits, to the regenerate hearts, heauen is much more desiderable. Grant therefore, my God, that as I daily grow towards my end, so I may liue the more cheerefully, learning in thy schoole, to preferre thy eternall life before the light of the Sunne; the glory of heauen, before the vanitie of the earth; the glorious habitation in paradice, before the painfull tumults of the world; the

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societie of Angels, before the fellowship of mortall men, the onely blessed and permanent life, before the passing shadow of this life, which is fruitfull in anguishes, riots, and labours, the triumph before the combat, the present possession of soveraigne good, before the hope of enioying: and that attending this haven of health, I may know how to prepare my selfe by continuall meditation in these excellent consolations, that happie are they that die in the Lord, for they rest from their labours: That death is to them no death, but a sleepe in regard of their bodies,

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dies, then freed from the
miseries of life: and that, as
for the soule, which findeth
it selfe deliuered from the
tyrannie of sinne, it is to her
a change to a better life:
That this death is to all
faithfull, the time of recei-
uing the garlands for their
race, and the crownes of
their labors: That to them
she is an acceptable issue of
a laborious trauell, their de-
liuerie from all terrour and
feare, and the stedfast ac-
cōplishment of their voca-
tion to felicity which made
the Apostle to say (Alas!
wretched man that I am,
who shall deliuer me from
this body of death? I desire

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to be dissolued, and to be
with Christ) howbeit if
notwithstanding in the in-
firmity of my flesh, the fear-
full image of death trouble
me in the straits of my de-
parture: if the world, that
doth alwayes too much be-
witch vs, maketh my
thoughts then bow to his
will : if Sathan pitcheth
his assaults and snares, and
vpon the remembrance of
my sinnes, setteth hell be-
fore my face : moreouer, if
my owne perturbations
keepe me from apprehen-
ding thy eternall consolati-
ons : in such most necessary
extremities, vouchsafe (my
good God and Father) in
these

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these anguishes, to approach
vnto me, to saue me frō the
running and swift streame
of such brookes, that they
may not carry me away to
perdition : illuminate my
thoughts with thy spirit,
waken my soule out of the
sleepe of death, renew my
heart by the vertue of thy
spirit, & put into my hands
the staffe of thy assured
conduct, to bring mee out
from the labyrinth of this
sorrowfull passage, causing
mee, with the eyes of my
faith, to behold my righte-
ousnesse vpon the crosse of
my Sauour, the discharge
of my debts in his sacrifice,
my victorie in his combats,

H 5

my

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my life in his death, my glorie and ioy in his resurrection; that so replenished with peace, I may cheerefully resign my body to the earth, as assured that it shall rise againe, and my soule to heauen, with these last words of Christ, (Into thy hands, O Father, I commit my spirit.) So be it.

The nineteenth Prayer,

For heauenly life.

He that heareth my word, and beleueth in him that sent me, hath life everlasting, and I will raise him againe at the latter day. Father, concerning those

Household Prayers.

*those whom thou hast given
me, my desire is, that they may
be where I am, that they may
be with me to behold my glo-
rie. Iohn 5. and 6. and 17.*

O Soueraigne Father
of all things, and
by a singular pri-
uiledge, Father of
the children whom it hath
pleased thee to adopt in our
Lord Iesus Christ, to be co-
heires with him in the cele-
stiall life, I learne in thy
word, that this inheritance
and blessed estate is a con-
templation of the glory of
this great Saviour of the ec-
lect, in an vnspeakable bea-
titude, only worthy to be lo-
ued,

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ued, and to be sought incessantly night and day, with the lampe of thy truth, which is to see him as he is (true God, and true Man) and perfectly to enjoy his presence with communicating of all his goodnesse, to be in the ioy of his Lord, as a loyall seruant, and to behold him face to face in his diuine essence, one with the Father, and with the holy Ghost, one only God in so-ueraigne Maiestie, which is to be vnited and conioyned with him, and by him vnto thee, O eternall God, who art all light and life of the soule, at her earthly habitation, afterward reuested with

Household Prayers.

with it flesh in that great day of the glorious coming of the same Christ, when he shall wholly render vp vnto thee the kingdom of thy grace, that thou maist be all in all : To be brieft (which is both in body & soule) to be in him, and to liue of his glory. And this also is the eternall life, a life accomplished in knowledge, in loue, in righteousness, in rest, in honour, in beauty, in constancy, in ioy, felicitie, and peace, a life wherein the Angels & saints incessantly do sound out & celebrate, O Lord, thy great name, in perfect and rati-
shing melodie, replenished
both

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both with a desire, and a
fulnes of the celestiall bread
(Iesus Christ God & Man)
without this desire bree-
ding any grieve, or this ful-
nelle any molestation. In
summe, a life, which by the
full view that we shall haue
of thy eternall Deitie (O al-
mightie God) shall make
vs know thee, as thou hast
knowne vs, and as thou art
in Trinitie of persons (Fa-
ther, Word, Spirit) and in
vnitie of essence: likewise
to loue thee according to
the excellency of thy na-
ture, with our whole hearts
& thoughts, and our whole
strength and might, and in
this loue to obtaine our per-
fect

Household Prayers.

fect & full contentment. To
this heauenly life, O Lord,
my soule directs her flight,
this is the marke she aimeth
at, the end whereto she ten-
derth, and the reward that
she, by thy grace, promiseth
her selfe, for seeking after
thy welbeloued Sonne, in
whom it pleaseth thee to be
my God and my Father.
Oh! I shall indeed goe and
liue in this holy and sacred
place of the habitation of
thy glory, and there shall
contemplate that which
neuer eye saw vnder the
heauen, neither eare hath
heard, nor heart compre-
hended, of the solid riches
which thou dost keepe frō
all

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all eternity for thy children.

I shall see, I say, these diuine wonders in thy sanctuarie, in thy light inaccessible for all flesh, knowing in the brightnes of thy countenance thy infinite power (O Father) thy incomprehensible wisdom (O Son) and thy incomparable vertue (O holy Ghost) one only true God. A knowledge so singular and pretious, that therein resteth all the felicitie of the Angels and Saints, their only plentiful reward, their scepter, the diademe of their glory, and the full and perpetuall ioy that couereth their heads as with a crowne of victorie,
in

Household Prayers.

in a peace durable for euer.
I beleeue thee therefore, O
Lord, to giue me grace, that
withdrawing my affection
more and more from the
darke cloisters of the earth,
sprinkled with teares, I
may lift vp my desires to
the lightsome habitation of
thy Deitie, where the trea-
sures & incomparable ioyes
of thy paradice do remaine
in an eternall life.

So that I may finish my
course in an earnest & per-
petuall meditation of this
angelicall and diuine being,
and comforting my selfe in-
cessantly night and day, in
that the promise is made
vnto me through my Sau-
our

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our Iesus Christ, to the end,
that in my last houre (come
out of my miserie, and ente-
red into my felicitie) I may
with a happie flight goe
take my rest aboue in thy
peace, O my God, which
surmounteth all vnderstan-
ding, & for to sing Psalmes
of thanksgiuing vnto thee
without end. So be it.

The twentieth Prayer,

Vpon eternall death.

*Of those that sleepe in the
dust of the earth, some shall
awake to everlasting life, o-
thers to rebuke & shame with-
out end. Their worme shall not
dye,*

Household Prayers.

dye, and their fire shall not be quenched: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, Daniel 12. Esay 66. Mat. 15.

Almighty God, for whose glory all nations are created.

Thou which art the mighty and the faithful God, keeping thy covenant, and free mercy with a thousand generations of those that louethee, and obey thy commandments, and which giuest again the very same vnto those that hate thee, and rebell against thee, with euery of the euen to their face, whose will
is

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is the iust and foueraigne
cause of all that is done in
heauen, and in earth, whose
counsels are vnsearchable,
and iudgements most pro-
found and admirable. O
Father & gouernour of all
things, thou hast euen from
the beginning, of thy vn-
speakable goodnes framed
man, & reclothed him with
such an excellencie, as did
sufficiently preach forth the
infinite power of thy hand,
which had created him
such a one. I wil not, neither
can I ascend higher then
thy word teacheth me, to
enquire wherefore thou
wouldest not so establisth
the blessed being of this the
greatest

Household Prayers.

greatest and chiefeſt of thy
viſible workes , that hee
might not fall, I haue mat-
ter enough to occupie the
ſtrength of my ſoule, to me-
ditate vpon, to haue in dete-
ſtation, yea euen before thy
Maieſtic to accuſe the pride
of our nature, which thought
not it ſelfe in honour ſuffici-
ent, vnleſſe it were equall
with thy Deitie, freeing it
ſelfe from all feare, and obe-
dience vnto thee, & by that
raſh ingratitude caſt him-
ſelfe headlong from inno-
cencie into ſinne, from life
into temporall and eternall
death. To thee, O Lord, be-
longeth righteouſneſſe, and
to man conſuſion & ſhame,
and

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& thou after thy good pleasure, shewest mercy to who thou wilt shew mercy. The vaine Philosophy, and foolish curiositie, which is not content with the simplicity of Christian faith, retained within the limits of thy sacred oracles, shall make much enquire about this fall of *Adam*, to the end (if she could) to penetrate into thy secret counsell, about the creation and end of thy workes ; yea euen in that which toucheth the election and reprobation of mankind, she dareth in this botto-
melesse pit to discourse of thy infinite iustice, and the argument of thy incompre-
hen-
sible

Household Prayers.

hensible glory, measuring both the one and the other with her terrestriall conceits, for to declare in her imaginations, thy grace to the elect, & thy iudgement against the reprobate, daring to pleade their cause, as also she will resolute of their estate after this life, and of the qualitie of their punishments. But thy children, O heavenly Father, instructed by thy doctrine through the light of thy spirit, will in their hearts humbly reuerence thy decrees, which are alwayes iust, euen in the first condemnation of all mankind, and will be content to magnifie thy
good

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goodnes, for the grace that
it hath pleased thee to be-
stow vpon them in Iesus
Christ, adopring them by
him of thy free mercy into
thy familie. For they haue
learned in thy schoole that
the inaccessible brightnesse
of thy iudgements dazleth
the best sighted minds and
spirits, yea wasteth & con-
sumeth them when they
presume to approach to en-
quire the secret causes. This
doe I know (neither will I
know any more) that all
things doe worke for the
best in thy elect, because
that hauing knowne them
before all ages, thou hast
also predestinated them to
be

Household Prayers.

bee made conformable to
the image of thy Sonne, cal-
led and iustified them to
bee glorified. The vessels
of wrath prepared to per-
dition, doe feele none of
these free mercies and cele-
stial riches, wherof it comes
that when they think vpon
death, they see nothing but
fearefull, horrible, damna-
ble, all intollerable paine,
without diminution or end:
an infernall, diuellish, and
endlesse torment, a gnash-
ing of teeth, with blasphemy
and despaire, a perpetuall
disquiet boeth in body and
soule, an eternitie to their
woe and damnation; and
which is worse, a most mer-
cifull

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cifull God, whom they shal know to bee in heauen, and yet not to be their God, but their aduersary, and soueraigne Iudge, to be as seuerer and rigorous to them, as he shall bee gentle and fauourable to his children. This is in summe, that all the reprobate may expect or hope for in death. This also maketh, that when they finde they are vtterly destitute of the pledg of their fredome, which thy elect (ô Lord) do carry with them in this sin of nature namely faith in Christ dead for their sins and risen againe for their righteousnesse; these miserable men depart this their earthly

Household Prayers.

earthly habitation, with
great griefe & trembling v-
sually at the houre of death,
casting forth many wofull
sobs, infallible fore-runners
of their miserie at hand : As
in truth they want no more
thereof, but the prooffe that
they are going to make, of
the eternall torments with
the diuells in the burning
lake of fire and brimstone,
which is neuer quenched,
giuen to the soule presently
vpon the temporall death,
and to both body and soule
in the day of the resurrectiō
of all flesh, I say in the se-
cond and eternall death, a
death which cōtinues with-
out dying, & without con-
I 2 suming,

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suming, or destroying, that
which it makes to languish
for euer in a Furnace, al-
wayes burning, deuouring,
and consuming : amongst
which vnspeakeable tor-
ments (yea such as mans
thought is not able to con-
ceiue) this paine is not the
least to the damned (but ra-
ther another cruell death)
that they neuer haue any
motion of the spirit, to re-
pent or conuert vnto thee,
the onely and true God. I
beseech thee therefore, O
Lord, that as thou hast gi-
uen me grace to belieue that
by thy grace I am made a
vessell of mercy, I may liue
in the life of the righteous,
sancti-

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sanctified by the spirit of
Christ, to depart happily in
him, and so to ascend vnto
thee in thy new Sion, and
there to receiue the prize of
the victorious Crowne,
which this great Sauour of
the elect hath purchased for
the perfection of their glo-
ry. So be it.

I mow or ey

his The 21. Prayer,

orig ydum ob 1, 25th do

vd For the Morning.

23rd may 1611

*Our Lord, euen in the mor-
ning heare my voice : Early
in the morning will I direct my
prayer vnto thee, and will
look up. O Lord I crye vnto
thee, & earely shall my praier*

come

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come before thee. Let my
helpe and beginning bee in
the name of G O D, (Fa-
ther, Sonne and holy Ghost)
who hath made heauen
and earth. Psalme 5. and
88.

O Lord my God, e-
ternall & almighty,
to whom I
owe all glory and
obediēce, I do humbly pro-
strate my selfe before thy
face, and lift vp my heart &
voyce to thee my Father
which art in heauen, to san-
ctifie thy name, to craue thy
mercy, and to giue thee
thankes for thy benefits. I
acknowledge of thy proui-
dence

Household Prayers.

dence and benigntie, that hauing passed this night vnder thy gard & protection, I may yet see the light of the day, and in the workes of thy hands, contemplate the greatnes of thy power, and here below inioy those temporall benefits, that thou pourest plentifully or largely vpon thy creatures.

But because of thy vnmeasurable bounty, thou makest earthly things common to al men, and that the effects of the Sun doe stand vs in no stead but for the life of the body, I beseech thee (mercifull Father) more & more to raise vpon my hart thy eternall light (our Lord

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Iesus Christ) & by the vertue of thy spirit, so to scatter the darknesse of my vnderstanding, and to breake the hardnesse of my heart, that so farre as it may suffice for my saluation, I may apprehend the glory of thy kingdom, and the mysteries of christiã faith, together with the duty of my calling, that I may constantly walke in the same, in a good conscience and as before thee, the searcher of our hearts, with all my thoughts, worshipping and louing thee in spirit and truth, according to thy word : louing also, in thee, my neighbors as my selfe, to pleasure them so far

as

Household Prayers.

as I may, by thy grace : but because my ignorance and imperfections, do carry me farre from such wisdom, and fulfilling of righteousness being a poore sinner, weak in faith, slow in hope, cold in charity, and polluted with many offences that make mee worthy of death and of hell. I beseech thee, my God, in thy fatherly loue to beare with these my defects, and to forgiue me my trespasses, in the name of thy Son our Mediator and Saviour, accepting his sacrifice as a full satisfaction for my sinnes, and imputing vnto me his righteousness, to life everlasting.

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Yea and to the same end,
also vouchsafe to encrease
in my soule the gifts of thy
spirit, so as I may from bet-
ter to better, prosecute my
life in the path of thy elect,
beeing through thy power
freed from the temptations
of the Diuell, the world &
my owne flesh, and by thy
blessing preserved from the
dangers and miseries of
this poore life, alwaies not-
withstanding content with
whatsoever it shall please
thee to bestow on me.

Sith thou art my Father,
I canot but expect a happy
end of all my estates hauing
already receiued of thy
mercy, the assured pledge of
salua-

Household Prayers.

saluation (forgiuenesse of
sinnes) But Lord, grant e-
specially that this thy grace
in Iesus Christ, may be vn-
to me a comfort, and light
all the dayes of my life, e-
specially in the darknesse of
my death, to retaine and
hold me fast in the hope of
my saluation, that with a
liuely faith at my last gaspe
I may speake these words
of my Sauour vppon the
crosse, (Into thy hands O
Father, I commend my
spirit) whereby my soule
also inwardly may heare
the same Christ saying vnto
me, as vnto the poore peni-
tent thiefe (Sonne, reioyce,
this day thou shalt bee with
me

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me in Paradise) so that full
of peace, by the effects of
thy spirit, I may cheerefully
leauē my body to the earth,
assured of the resurrection,
and that my soule may by
the Angells bee guided to
the rest of the Blessed : and
vouchsafe, O Lord, to doe
the like fauour to all men,
euen as I craue these things,
in the prayer which thy
Son hath taught me. (*Our
Father, which art in Heauen,
hallowed bee thy name. Thy
Kingdome come. Thy will bee
done, in earth as it is in hea-
uen. Giue vs this day our
daily bread, and forgine vs
our trespases, as wee forgine
them that trespasse against*

vs.

vs.

Household Prayers.

vs. And lead us not into temptation, but deliuer vs from euill : For thine is the Kingdome, the power and the glory, world without end. Amen.) Likewise (my God) encrease in mee faith, working euery good worke, and giue me grace constantly to perseuere, and thereof to make confession euen to my last gaspe, saying : I beleene in G O D the Father Almighty, maker of Heauen and earth. And in Iesus Christ his onely Sonne our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy G H O S T, borne of the Virgin Mary, suffered vnder Ponce Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried,

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ried, hee descended into Hell,
the third day hee rose againe
from the dead: hee ascended
into Heauen, and sitteth at
the right hand of G O D the
Father Almighty. From
thence hee shall come to iudge
the quicke and the dead. I be-
leeue in the holy Ghost, The
holy Catholike Church. The
Communion of Saints, The for-
giuenesse of sinnes. The resur-
rection of the flesh, And the
life euerlasting.) This is my
faith, O Lord, wherein I
will liue and dye, as also in
the obseruation of thy holy
commandements, compri-
sed in these two (*That we*
loue thee with all our heart,
with all our soule, with all our
strength,

Household Prayers.

strength, and with all our thoughts, and our neighbours as our selues.

Thus thy grace, (O my God and Father) bee with mee, and the blessing vpon all the workes of my hands. So be it.

The two and twentieth Prayer,

Among the Family.

At noone, at night, and in the morning will I cry vnto G O D, and the Eternall shall deliuer mee: I will make a noyse, and hee shall heare my voice, (saied Dauid) And Daniel kneeled downe three times

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times a day in his house, pray-
ed vnto, and magnified his
G O D. Psalme 55. and 18.
Daniel 6.*

*Our helpe and beginning be in the
name of God.*

O LORD our God,
and heauenly Fa-
ther, onely great
in glory, and of in-
finite power, It hath plea-
sed thee so farre forth to ho-
nor men, (poore wormes,
of the earth) that they may
in full confidence, in thy
loue and bounty, present
themselues before thy face,
to magnifie thy name : to
talke of thy beneficence,
and

Household Prayers.

and to craue thy mercy. We humbly beseech thee therefore by thy spirit to dispose of our soules, our hearts and our lips to glorifie thee, and so to call vpon thee that our vowes may be acceptable vnto thee, and our prayers heard, we confesse our selues, in thy presence to be so great sinners, that our vnworthinesse will not suffer vs to look vp to heauen, without feare that thou shouldest in thy iust wrath, thunder vpon vs : neither can wee cast our eyes vpon the earth, but we shall see as it were hell open for the reward of our wickednesse : for we are not onely as the children

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children of *Adam*, conceived and borne in sinne, worthy of thy curse, but also, by our owne faults, lusts, vncleannesse, bad thoughts and wicked workes, whereinto through our corruption and frailtie we do daily fall, which also in our consciences are so many witnessses to condemne vs, and as it were Heraulds that do denounce vnto vs death and hell: But (O Lord) thy mercyes doe infinitely exceede our malice, and thy eternall compassions, are vpon sinners, that conuert and turne vnto thee. Thou art that pittifull Father, that gladly receiued
his

Household Prayers.

his prodigall and vnthrifty sonne. That louing sheepeheard that carefully seeketh the lost sheepe; that charitable Phisition, that freely cometh to the sicke to cure them. Wee therefore the children of thy loue, the sheepe of thy fold, and the poore in spirit, do most humbly besech thee in the name of thy welbeloued Sonne, our mediator Iesus Christ, to vouchsafe to take away all our calamities, in pardoning our sins, because thou hast giuen vs this great Sauour in the world, to the end, that whosoever beleueth in him, should not perish, but haue life euerlasting

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fting. Wee are baptized in
his name we haue receiued
his Gospell: and hee giueth
vs his body in thy Church
for spirituall food, that wee
may liue in him, and of him
for euer blessed. Giue vs
grace therefore, ô our God,
with a true and liuely faith
vpheld by hope, and doing
euery good work, to apprehend,
to the glory of thy
name, and the peace of our
soules, these great benefits
that are purchased for vs, in
the death and passion of the
same our Redeemer, that
wee may incessantly yeelde
prayfings vnto thee and
liue in holinesse, according
to thy Word. For the per-
formance

Household Prayers.

formance hereof vouchsafe
to encrease the gifts of thy
spirit in our hearts, where-
by the desires of the flesh,
and vanities of the world,
may bee mortified, and the
pure fire of thy loue so kind-
led, that we may loue, honor
and serue thee with all our
soule, with all our strengths
and with all our mindes, &
louing our neighbours as
our selues, to pleasure them
in all duties of loue to our
power.

Strengthen vs likewise
with thy vertue, ô Almight-
ty God, against the tempta-
tions and assaults of Sa-
than, deliuering vs victori-
ously, preserving vs also
from

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from such dangers and miseries, as euerywhere follow vs at the heeles in this life; and aboue all, giuing vs grace in whatsoeuer estate we bee, still to be content with thy will, which can neuer bee other then good and iust, & to vs profitable, because wee are of the number of his children. So let thy peace bee in vs, and vpon all the workes of our hands, that wee may happily passe the rest of our dayes, walking euery of vs in his familie, in the duty of our vocation, in a good conscience, as before thy face, to whom nothing is hid : and meditating diligently

Household Prayers.

gently, vpon the shortnesse
and afflictions of this our
life, that so wee may ad-
uance thee, and finally end
in the wisdom of true
christians : wherby we may
principally learne to desire
Heauen, and patiently to
take all humane crosses, and
whatsoever may seem to vs
most grieuous to the flesh,
knowing thar all things
shall turne to our good, al-
wayes prouided, that con-
stantly wee perseuere in thy
seruice, for so shall wee liue
and dye with Christ, that
we may enter into his ioyes
in heauen, there to behold
his glory. Furthermore,
whosoever vnworthy sin-
ners

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ners we are, yet O Lord, in
as much as thou hast com-
manded vs, to pray one for
another, to the aduancemēt
of thy Kingdome, wee pray
to thee for all men, that it
may please thee so to worke
that they who as yet haue
not the knowledge of thy
holy Gospell, may, by the
preaching thereof, and the
illumination of thy holy
spirit, be brought to know
thee, the only and true God,
and him whom thou hast
sent, Iesus Christ, to saue
the world. Also that they
whom thou hast already vi-
sited with this grace, as our
selues; may daily increase in
thy spirituall blessings : So
that

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that altogether wee may
worship thee with heart
and mouth in one Spirit,
one Faith, and one Bap-
tisme. And sith thou hast
also ordained governments
and callings, that all people
may bee governed in the
feare of thy Name, and to
common commoditie: we
beseech thee to inspire,
guide and blesse our King,
and all Princes, Magi-
strates and Superiours, that
haue the government of
thy Sword vpon earth, that
euery one of them raiging
in godlinesse and righ-
teousnesse, may imploy
their power which they
hold from thee, to cause
K thee

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thee to be serued and honored to the tranquillity of peace and reliefe of their subiects, wholly submitting themselves and their people, to thy holy word. Likewise for the publishing of thy word in all places, vouchsafe more and more with thy gifts to enrich the pastors and doctors of the Church, and daily to raise vp more to execute in a good conscience their charge, to the edification and perfection of thy holy Temple, whereof, in generall (O Lord) and of euery faithfull, vouchsafe to shew thy selfe the Almighty Protector, to the confusion of
all

Household Prayers.

all the Aduersaries of the
name of Christ, and of his
holy Church.

We also pray thee for all
those whom thou visitest
with tribulation, whether it
be sicknesse of body, or an-
guish of soule, that thou, O
mercifull Father, vouchsafe
to giue them comfort and
patience to the bearing of
their calamities, and deli-
uerance from their affli-
ctions. Asking all these
things of thee in the name
of thy Sonne our Mediator,
and as hee hath taught vs
to pray, *Our Father which
art in heauen, hallowed be thy
name, &c.* We also beseech
thee, (O Lord) to encrease

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and confirme vs in the Catholike faith of thy church, to the end it may take liuely root in our soules, to fructifie to all righteousnesse and good workes : and that euen to our last gaspe wee may make like confession thereof, as wee doe now both with heart & mouth :
(I beleene in God the Father Almighty, maker of heauen and earth, &c. And because the faith of thy children, O Lord, is inseparable from the obedience due to thy word, especially in the ten Commandements of the Law, and that thou dost ordain, that we should haue them perpetually in

our

Household Prayers.

our hearts and mouthes, to keepe them, and to teach them to our families, giue vs grace, to our powers to conform our selues to the same, euen as wee vnderstand that they were deliuered from thy mouth, saying, (*Harke ISRAEL*) *I am the Lord thy God, that brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.*

1 *Thou shalt haue no other gods before me.*

2 *Thou shalt not make to thy selfe any grauen image, or the likenesse of any thing that is in heauen aboue, or in the earth beneath, or in the water vnder the earth. Thou*

K 2 *shalt*

Master Bezaes

shalt not bow downe to them,
nor worship them, for I am
the Lord thy God, a ielous
God that visiteth the finnes
of the Fathers vpon the chil-
dren, to the third and fourth
generation of them that
hate mee, and shew mer-
cy vnto thousands of them that
loue mee and keepe my com-
mandements.

3 Thou shalt not take the
name of the Lord thy God in
vaine, for the Lord will not
hold him guiltlesse that taketh
his name in vaine.

4 Remember that thou
keepe holy the Sabbath day
sixe dayes soe thou labour,
and do all that thou hast to do,
but the seauenth day is the
Sabbath.

Household Prayers.

Sabbath of the Lord : In it thou shalt doe no manner of thing, thou and thy Sonne, and thy daughter, and thy manservant, and thy maid-servant and the stranger that is within thy gates : For in sixe dayes the Lord made heauen and earth, and the Sea, and all that therein is, and rested the seauenth day, wherefore the Lord blessed the seauenth day and hallowed it.

5 Honour thy Father and mother, that thy dayes may be long in the Land which the Lord thy God giueth thee.

6 Thou shalt do no murder.

7 Thou shalt not commit adulterie,

8 Thou shalt not steale.

K 4

9 Thou

Master Bezaes

9 Thou shalt not beare
false witnesse against thy
neighbour.

10 Thou shalt not conet
thy neighbours house, thou
shalt not conet thy neighbours
wife, nor his man-servant, nor
his maid-servant, nor his ox,
nor his asse, nor any thing that
is his.

And the summe of all
these Commandements is
this : That wee loue thee,
O Lord, with all our harts,
and with all our mindes,
and our neighbours as our
selues. Thy blessing there-
fore, O our God and Fa-
ther, with the peace of our
Lord Iesus, and the com-
fort of the holy Ghost, be
thus

Household Prayers.

thus giuen vnto vs by thy
grace, and remaine with vs
for euer. Amen.

The 23. Prayer,

Before meat, among the
Familie.

*The eyes of all creatures
looke vp vnto thee; O Lord,
thou giuest them meat in due
season, thou openest thy hand,
and fillest with thy blessing e-
uery lining thing. &c. Ps. 145.*

O Euerlasting God
and Father, we be-
seech thee to ex-
tend thy blessing
vpon vs thy poore chil-
dren and seruants, and vp-
on the food which it plea-
K 5 seth

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seth thee, of thy goodnesse,
to giue vnto vs for the su-
stenance of our life, that we
may vse the same soberly
and with thanksgiuing, as
thou hast commanded. But
aboue all things, giue vs
grace to desire, and especi-
ally, to seeke the spirituall
bread of thy word, where-
with our soules may bee fed
eternally in the name, and
to the glory of the Father,
Sonne, and holy Ghost,
one only & true God, who
liueth and raigneth world
without end, Amen.

The 24. Prayer.

Af. er'meales among the
Fami'y.

W^h ther

Household Prayers.

*Whether we eate or drinke,
or whatsoeuer we do, we must
do all to the glory of G O D.
1 Cor. 10..*

O Eternall God, our
Father, wee yeeld
thee thanks for
that it hath plea-
sed thee to nourish and
feede vs, ministring vnto vs
all that is needfull for this
life, and making vs to enioy
so many temporall bene-
fits as thou doest largely
poure vpon vs thy crea-
tures : we beseech thee of
thy goodnesse, vouchsafe
to continue them the rest
of our dayes. But aboue all,
we praise thee for the spiri-
tuall

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tuall food, that by thy word
thou giuest to our soules, to
the end they may for euer
liue in blisse, through Iesus
Christ our Redeemer : to
whom with thee Father,
and the holy Ghost, one
only and true God, be all
honour and glory for euer.
Amen.

The 25 Prayer,

Euening prayer for the
Houshold.

*It is a good thing to give
thanks vnto the Lord, and
to sing praises vnto thy name,
O most high ! to tell thy truth
in the night season : I will
lay*

Household Prayers.

*lay me down in peace and take
my rest, for it is thou Lord
onely that makest me dwell in
safety. Psal. 92. & 4.*

O Lord our God and
Father ; as thy
people of Israel
offered vnto thee
their euening sacrifice, so do
we offer vnto thee, the obla-
tion of our humble & con-
trite hearts, that wee may
glorifie thy name, and ob-
taine remission of our sins.
We praise thee therefore &
yeeld thee thanks for thy
benefits, namely for that it
hath pleased thee to let vs
passe this day vnder thy
protection and safeguard,
with-

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without the which wee
might haue incurred many
miseries and dangers. But
because by our corruption
and frailty we haue diuersly
offended thee, in thought,
word, and deed, and that
thy mercy is vpon all those
to whom thou vouchsafest
to be a father, in our Lord Je-
sus Christ, and that call v-
pon thy name, wee beseech
thee to forgiue vs our sins,
and to accept of his righte-
ousnesse, in the merit of his
death, in discharge of our
debts, so that as euery thing
is now hidden frō our eyes
by the night which thou
giuest vs for the rest of our
bodies, so our offences may
be

Household Prayers.

be buried out of thy sight, in
the sepulchre of the same
Christ, whereby our soules
may haue in him their spiri-
tual rest. Alas we know that
Sathan the Prince of dark-
nesse, lieth alwaies in waite
to hurt vs, seeking princi-
pally to make a breach into
our hearts, when we stand
least vpon our guard: but
(O Almighty God) in thy
presence also are the thou-
sands of Angells, to watch
on those whom thou hast
called to the inheritaunce of
thy saluation, of which
number we do beleue our
selues to bee, through the
mercy which it hath pleasd
thee to shew vs. Give vs
grace

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grace therefore to be deliue-
red from the temptations of
the diuell, from vncleannes
and troublefome dreames,
whereinto our infirmitie
doth lead vs, and also from
all other dangers, to the
end, our bodies receiuing,
through thy blessing, a peace
able & quiet sleep for their
ease, our mindes may watch
more freely vnto thee (who
art their rest and their life,)
& in the meditation of thy
loue; that to morrow wee
may arise so much the rea-
dier, to glorifie and serue
thee, euery one in his voca-
tion. Thus running our
race, in the path of thy elect
we may with ioy expect the
desired

Household Prayers.

desired houre of our flesh to
rest in the earth, that our
soules may bee lodged in
heauen, and at the last day
bee raised againe in glorie,
with all the Saints, to en-
ioy the accomplishment of
our felicity. Howbeit in the
meane time, whilst we com-
fort our selues in this hope,
(ô heauenly Father) we doe
recommend vnto thee the
peace and preservation of
our Church, the estate of
this kingdome, and all such
as be afflicted with sicknes
or any other tribulation; be-
secching thee to giue to thy
children & seruants wherof
to take comfort and alwaies
to reioyce in thy goodnesse.

This

Houshold Prayers.

This it is that wee doe be-
leeue in thy word: Yea, this
is it, that wee doe craue of
thee in the name of our Me-
diator Iesus Christ, by that
praier which he hath taught
vs, (*Our Father which art
in heauen, &c.*) Thy blessing
therefore, O our God & fa-
ther, the peace of our Lord
Iesus, with the comfort of
the holy Ghost be giuen to
vs by thy grace, and remain
with vs for euer. Amen.

*The sixe and twentieth
Prayer.*

Of him which suffereth
much by sicknesse.

When

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*When you shall be sicke, bee
not slow to pray to God, and
hee will heale thee. He hea-
leth those that are broken in
heart, and cureth their griefs.
If they touched the gates of
death, and crye vnto the Lord
in their distresse, hee will de-
liuer them from their trou-
bles. Eccles. 18. Psal. 147.
and 107.*

O Lord, my God and
Father, now it is,
that in these griefs
and paines that
oppresse mee, I doe better
then heretofore I haue, ac-
knowledge the corruption
and frailty of my nature, &
the iustice and goodnesse of
thy

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thy hand that visiteth mee.
The originall of all flesh is
in infection, his temporall
habitation is in dust, conti-
nually tossed to & fro with
stormes : her end is a prey
to the wormes, and all her
glory is buried with her in
the earth. Yet is man so
blind and depraved, that for
a short time, wherein he en-
ioyeth any prosperity and
health, he loseth the know-
ledge of his fraile condition:
he swells and strayeth from
the principall end of his be-
ing, and slideth away into
the follies and vanities of
the world : Thus might I
many times have made ship
wracke among these lamen-
table

Household Prayers.

table rockes, haddest not thou, my G O D, stretched forth thy rod of tribulation vpon me in my most happy prosperities, to preuent my ruine. It is that (as to this day thou dost admonish me of thy discipline) which maketh me to humble my selfe in thy sight, and to feele my miserie, that with heart and voice, I may confesse that thou art iust (O soueraigne Iudge) and good (O gentle Father) who wilt thus with one medicine, chastise and cure the vlcer of my sinnes. Come therefore thou vapour of the earth, thou shadow of life, thou corruptible flesh, sith God for thy instruction

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struction and amendment
giueth thee trauell, put off
thy selfe, and submit thee to
his spirit, and thy spirit to
the father of spirits, and thy
affections to his will Thus
with all thy strength and
minde, lift vp thy selfe to-
wards this Fatherly hand,
from whence the stripe cō-
meth and griueth thee, to-
wards this arme of the Al-
mighty that hath cast the
stone that bruiseth thee, to-
wards this great God, who
being pittifull, doth see and
heare thee in thy sufferings,
who vnder his hand hol-
deth both the discafe & the
cure, the paine and the rest,
life and death, to make the
one

Howshold Prayers.

one as profitable & health-
full vnto thee as the other.
Then will I say with a
contrite heart; yet full of
confidence : I haue sinned
against thee, O my God, I
haue grieuously offended
thee, I deserue to bee tho-
roughly chastised, and the
evils that I doe indure, are
farre lesse then my offences,
which only death and hell
are able to counterprise.
But thy grace and compas-
sion greater then my sins,
are eternall vpon all those
whom thou hast washed,
sanctified and iustified in
thy well beloued Sonne Ie-
sus Christ, of which num-
ber I doe beleue I am, and
that

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that in him, and for his sake
thou wilt make me blessed:
forgiue me my debts in his
name, and ease me of my
anguish wherein I remaine
without strength. I beseech
thee, from the bottome of
my thoughts, in the bitter-
nesse of my heart, and with
the words of *David*, (O e-
ternal God) heare my praier
and petition, & let nothing
hinder my crye for com-
ming vnto thee, hide not
thy face from mee, bend
downe thine eare vnto mee
in the day of my trouble,
make haste and deliuer me
in the day that I call vpon
thee, for my dayes are va-
nished like smoake, and my
bones

Household Prayers.

bones are dried like chaffe:
my heart hath beene smit-
ten, and withered like the
grasse, that I haue forgot-
ten to eate my bread. O
Lord, all my desire is before
thee, comfort the soule of
thy seruant: shall any man
tell of thy mercies in the se-
pulchre, or thy faithfullnesse
in the graue? Thus then,
O mercifull God, bearing
my selfe in thy chastise-
ments, I will in all patience
waite for the seasonable
succor of thy hand, as being
well assured; that while it
is in comming, thou wilt
not suffer thy spirit of con-
solation to forsake me in the
middest of my tribulation,
L that

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that my present heauinesse
shall be vnto me the watch
of some ioy at hand: & that
at all aduentures, the last of
my sorrowfull dayes, shall
be the first of my rest in e-
ternall life. And therefore
I will againe say with the
Apostle, Behold I am here,
deale with mee at thy plea-
sure, and with thy seruant
Iob, (Albeit God should
slay mee, yet will I trust in
him, and reprove my waies
in his presence) and with
Saint *Augustine* (O Lord
smite here, cut here, burne
here, so that thou doest par-
don me for euer.) Amen:
*Our Father, which art in hea-
uen, &c.*

The

Household Prayers.

*The seven and twentieth
Prayer,*

*At the visitation of the
sicke.*

*Is there any amongst you
sicke, let him call the Elders
of the Church, and let them
pray for him, and anoint him
with oyle, in the name of the
Lord, and the prayer of faith
shall save the diseased. and
the Lord shall raise him up,
and if hee haue committed
any sinnes, they shall bee for-
giuen him. Iam. 5.*

O Lord our God, who
art all righteousnes
and goodnesse, wee
L 2 know,

Master Bezaes

know, that among thy corrections wherewith thou wakenest vs to our duties, it pleaseth thee many times to tame our flesh with sundry diseases : for thou dost, by the paines that we suffer, aduertise vs of the cause of our euills, which is sinne, and of the punishment due to the same, namely death, whereof the infirmities of the body are the ordinary meanes: And also thou dost withall put vs in mind of the great day of thy iudgement, which after death doth ensue to life euerlasting, full of glory and beatitude to the elect, and of reproach and torments to
the

Household Prayers.

the reprobate.

But of these things, the flesh, so long as it feeleth it selfe at ease, hath least care to heare : Sith therefore it hath pleased thee, (O iust and mercifull Father) with thy rod to visit this poore sicke person here present, afflicting him for his offences, as himselfe doth with vs confesse, we beseech thee that in pardoning him for the loue of thy welbeloued Sonne Iesus Christ, thou wilt make this chastisement to profit him to his correction : so that hee may with quiet obedience beare thy visitation, submitting himselfe voluntarie with all

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his heart to thy holy will,
who striketh him, not as a
seuere Iudge, but as a most
mercifull Father, whereby
he may learne to repose his
whole trust and assurance
in thy loue; and as in him
thou art the Author of his
life, and canst preserue him
whether it be to abide be-
low heere in thy Church,
or that thou wilt gather
him into thy kingdome of
heauen. Thus Lord, on the
one side awakening in his
soule by his sicknes, on the
other, the feeling of humane
miseries, make him, with
the eyes of his faith, to be-
hold the eternall blessings
thou reseruest for him in
thy

Household Prayers.

thy Paradise, to liue happy
for euer: so that he may with
patience, easily digest the
bitternesse of that potion
that thou hast poured forth
vnto him, bending his prin-
cipall desire to enioy thy
presence in heauen. But
thou knowest, O mercifull
Father, that the spirit of
thy children is willing, but
their flesh is alwayes fraile,
and full of great mistrust, e-
specially in the bitternes of
afflictions.

Assist therefore this sicke
person with the plenty and
strength of the gifts of thy
spirit, that hee may over-
come all the enemies of his
peace: & be thou his shield

L 4 against

Master Bezaes

against the assaults and terrors of death, especially if his conscience doe trouble and accuse him for his inward and hidden sinnes, which are open in thy sight. Then let the holy Ghost, (the perpetuall comforter of all faithful soules) vouchsafe to represent vnto him for his defence the passion and sacrifice of our Lord Iesus, who hath himselve borne vpon the crosse all our iniquities, that so he might absolue and discharge vs, before thy iudiciall throne, (according to the infinite merit of his righteousness) and open the gate of thy kingdome to all that shall
be-

Household Prayers.

beleue and be baptised in
his name. - Thus this poore
patient being comforted in
feeling through a liuely and
stedfast faith, the fruit and
vertue of that earnest peny
of saluation that Christ hath
left vs in his Church, name-
ly remission of sins for his
sake : also that this hope
which is neuer confounded
doth keepe his spirit quiet,
that he may call vpon thee,
O Lord, and sanctifie thy
name euen to his last gaspe,
neuer fearing the temptati-
ons of Sathan and death, or
of hell, as beeing assured,
that Christ hath ouercome
them, and led them in tri-
umph, breaking their bonds

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so that he may in all christi-
an confidence, cry out with
thy Apostle, ô death, where
is thy sting? O hell, where
is thy victory? In this man-
ner (O mercifull God) let
this sicke person be, by our
prayers, commended vnto
thee: and vouchsafe, if it be
thy pleasure, to restore him
to health, with encrease of
thy graces; that he may yet
amongst vs serue to thy
glory. If not, but that thou
hast otherwise appointed
to bring him into thy rest,
thy will be done and accep-
ted both by him and vs in
al quiet obedience. Receiue
him into thy heauenly *Hie-
rusalem*, for he hath his
whole

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whole recourse vnto thee
by one only mediator Iesus
Christ, & all his confidence
is in thy mercy. In stead of
bodily death grant him the
life of his soule amongst thy
Angells, vntill that by the
resurrection of all flesh, in
the great day of the Lord, he
may liue a whole man in
the contemplation of thy
glory. And to vs all heere
present, likewise graunt thy
grace, that we may as wee
ought, behold in this mir-
ror, the shortnesse and vn-
certainty of our daies, that
hereafter we may not desire
any thing so much as to im-
ploy them carefully to thy
honor and seruice. For all
these

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these things do we pray vn-
to thee in the name of thy
sonne, in that prayer which
himselſe hath taught vs :
*Our Father which art in hea-
uen, &c.*

The 28. Prayer,

*For him that feeleth his
death at hand,*

*We know that if this earth-
ly tabernacle be destroyed, we
haue a building giuen of God:
that is, a house not made with
hands, but eternall in the hea-
uens. The body is sowne in
corruption, it shall rise againe
in incorruption, 2 Cor. 5.
1 Cor. 15.*

Household Prayers.

O Lord my God and
Father, iustly was
man thy creature,
when by sinne he
had turned from thee (who
art the life) cast headlong
into the curse both of tem-
porall and eternall death :
for thy Maiesty being in-
finitely offended, ought also
in iustice to require a pu-
nishment without end,
which beginneth euen in
this life in many miseries,
and is perpetuated in hell,
whereto death is as it were
the gate. O Lord, the cause
of so lamentable a mishap is
in our nature : But in thee
is pittie and compassion, O
mercifull Father, who after
thy

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thy vnspackable goodnesse,
makest the temporal death,
which to all men is ineni-
table, and to the reprobate
an entry into hell, to change
his quality concerning the
Elect, being vnto them a
ioyfull passage to that hap-
pinesse which is in heauen:
For Iesus Christ thy eter-
nall Sonne to purchase vs
this benefit, did put on our
flesh, and therein healed the
wound of sinne by his
righteousnesse; and by his
oblation satisfied for our
debt, triumphing by his re-
surrection, over Death, Sa-
than, and Hell, for the salua-
tion of those to whom thou
givest grace, beleeue in his
name.

Household Prayers.

name. Now then my God,
sith it hath pleased thee of
thy great loue, thus to ac-
complish the high mystery
of our redemption, I be-
seech thee, grant me to feele
the fruit and efficacy there-
of, through the vertue of
thy spirit, euen to the last
gaspe of my life, that then I
may renderto thee my soule
in peace. For I am baptised
in the name of Christ, I be-
leeue in his holy Gospell, &
am fed with his body and
bloud in the holy Church.
True it is, O Lord, that the
remembrance of my sinnes,
wherof my conscience doth
accuse me doth greatly tro-
ble me; for the darknesse of
my

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my vnderstanding hath kept mee from knowing thee aright, and the corruption of my heart from worshipping thee in spirit and truth, according to thy word, I haue neglected this pretious treasure, euen the voice of my Redeemer, and by my slacknesse, made the seed thereof vnfruitfull in my soule, many times preferring the loue of my selfe, and the vanities of the world, before the loue that I owe vnto thee (my Creator) and my neighbour for thy sake. I haue not affected the crosse of thy Sonne, that I might cheerefully carry mine after him, in renoun-

cng

Household Prayers.

cing al my concupiscences:
neither haue I applied thy
chastisement to an vpright
amendment of life: I haue
beene weake in faith, slow
in hope, cold in charity,
vnpatient in tribulation,
and more stiffe in retaining
other mens offences against
me, then ready to pardon
them, what more shall I
say, my God? Also many
other sinnes which I cannot
expresse, which being euen
at this day hidden from
me in my infirmities doe
ouerwhelme my soule,
were it not for the repen-
tance that thou grauntest
me, and the trust that I haue
in thy mercy, through the
righte-

Master Bezaes

righteousnesse of my Saviour Iesus Christ, which it pleaseth thee in thy Fatherly loue to make mine; I see nothing but matter of despaire. His sacrifice giueth mee peace with thee: his blood cleanseth me: his obedience absolueth mee: his wounds doe cure mee: In his torments my soule findeth her rest: for of all these benefits do I feele thy promise sealed in my heart by thy spirit, which maketh mee to cry vnto thee (*Abba Father,*) and assureth me, that thou wilt of thy free mercy, in the name of thy Sonne and for his sake giue mee remission of my sinnes,

Household Prayers.

sinnes, and eternall life, being illuminated; therefore by this celestially light, I doe with the eyes of my minde behold the ship that shall cary me ouer from earth to heauen, no farther off from the presence of my Redeemer, then was that of his Disciples when they rowed against the tempest, to whom he said (feare not for it is I.) For in like manner commeth he to meete mee, to say vnto me; Feare not, assure thy selfe, be constant, It is I, not the death which thou maiest peradventure feare, but he that hath broken the sting thereof, that hath led it in triumph, that
hath

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hath broken the barres and
bonds euen in hell, and
who therefore doth make
thee to ascend from the
graue into the Pallace of
my glory.

Thus my G O D streng-
thened by thy grace with
Christian hope, which is
not confounded, and co-
uered vnder the buckler
of faith, which the darts
of the diuel cannot wound,
I am able with a strong
motion to passe in peace
from this prison of nature,
with these last words of
IESVS CHRIST vp-
on the Crosse, (Into
thy hands, O LORD,
I commend my spirit) and
the

Household Prayers.
the same CHRIST say-
ing vnto me, as to the
poore theefe that was
dying ; Sonne re-
ioyce, this day
thou shalt bee
with mee in
Paradise.
(* *)

FINIS.